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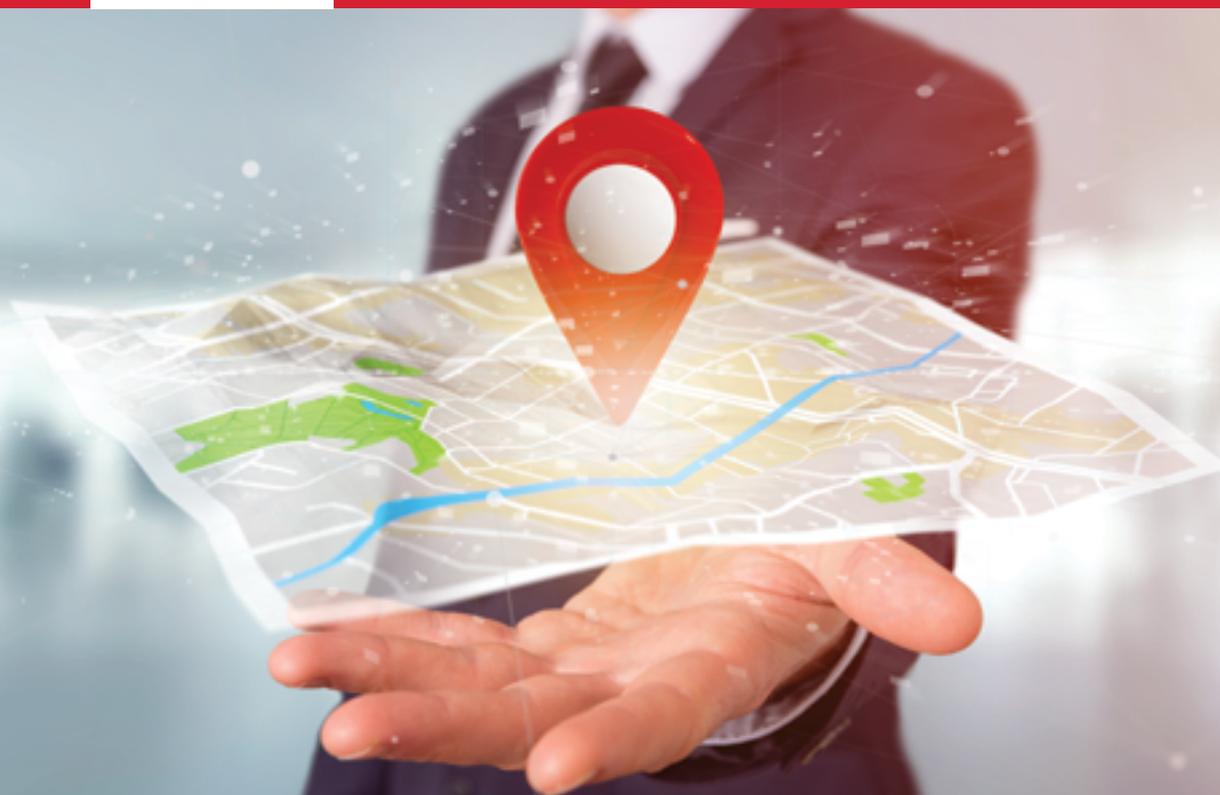
Swiss Agency for Development  
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# SERBIA AND 2030 AGENDA

Mapping the National Strategic Framework  
vis-a-vis the Sustainable Development Goals



Република Србија



## SERBIA AND 2030 AGENDA

Mapping the National Strategic Framework vis-a-vis the Sustainable Development Goals  
November 2021

### Publisher:



Vlajkovićeve 10, 11103 Belgrade

**Mail:** office@rsjp.gov.rs

**Phone number:** +381 (011) 33 49 818

#### For publisher:

Bojana Tošić, Director

#### Author:

Republic Secretariat for Public Policies

The 2020 version of the publication was updated in 2021

by Vladimir Ristanovic, PhD

#### Editorial Board:

Dijana Ilić Zogović,

Svetlana Aksentijević,

Jovan Borišić

#### Proofreading (Serbian):

EVENT Group

#### Translation (English):

Tamara Mandić

#### Design:

Executive Group

#### Published in June 2022

The production of this publication was supported by the Governments of Switzerland and Germany, through the project "Public Finance Reform – 2030 Agenda", implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The views and opinions expressed herein are exclusive responsibility of the author and do not represent the official positions of the Governments of Switzerland and Germany, as well as GIZ.

The terms expressed in the publication in the grammatical masculine gender mean the masculine and feminine genders of persons to which they refer.



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## 1. Introduction: Serbia and 2030 Agenda

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda formally came into effect on 1 January 2016, following the adoption of a resolution at the UN summit in September 2015. This is a global development agenda for the period beyond 2015. In the next 15 years, the state parties are expected to mobilise all resources to eradicate poverty, fight inequality and devise a response to climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the global goals, build on the Millennium Development Goals and recognise that fight against poverty goes hand in hand with economic growth and industrialisation, are geared towards many societal needs, including health, education, social protection, healthy environment and communities resilient to climate change.

The Republic of Serbia, together with several other countries worldwide, has been selected to support the design of a new global development agenda by consulting its citizens on their views of development priorities. Through the national campaign “The Serbia We Want”, as part of the global campaign “The World We Want”, over 250,000 citizens became aware of the consultation process concerning the post-2015 period. Two rounds of consultations were held in Serbia: Over 28,000 citizens had an opportunity to participate in consultations, either through an online survey and a web portal, or through direct consultation, mostly through Facebook and Twitter. Care was taken to consult a wide range of population groups, persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, people living in remote rural areas, the Roma, LGBT persons, displaced persons, the unemployed, trade unions, workers, farmers, journalists, street children, children with autism, youth and others.

Serbia is presently in the process of establishing the institutional framework for monitoring the achievement of sustainable development goals. The first “Serbia and 2030 Agenda” report was devised with the GIZ assistance in 2017, and it was followed by its updating in 2020. New public policies were adopted in the Republic of Serbia, while the other expired in the meanwhile, alike the changes made to the EU Accession Methodology. The “Serbia and 2030 Agenda” report was updated through the assistance provided under the GIZ Project “Public Finance Reform - Financing 2030 Agenda” in 2020. This way the process of 2030 Agenda implementation was further improved in the Republic of Serbia. The purpose of this Report is to map the existent strategic framework of Serbia against sustainable development goals as the baseline for the dialogue and decision-making process on the prioritisation SDGs. The mapping identifies the current state of each SDG. It also provides an overview of areas which are not adequately covered by the present strategic framework. It shows the linkages among the SDGs with the new EU Accession Methodology which is based on the negotiating chapters grouped within clusters.

## 1.1. Implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals 2000-2015 in Serbia and link to the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000) defined the fundamental values underlying international relations in 21st century: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, environmental conservation and shared responsibility. The Millennium Development Goals flow from this Declaration.

Recognising the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Government of Serbia, in cooperation with the United Nations Country Team in Serbia and the wider donor community, conducted the process of formulating national MDG targets and indicators. In the course of that process, the MDGs were adapted to the national context by elaborating relevant targets (tasks) and setting baseline values. The partnership with the EU, availability of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), and the UNDAF 2016-2020 development framework constituted an important framework for resource mobilisation with a view to addressing development challenges and reforms stemming from the unfinished work on MDG implementation.

The European Commission is committed to sustainable development and implements the goals of the 2030 Agenda through the operationalisation of policies, adequate funds and management instruments, with a strong focus on monitoring progress on the ground. Since 2010 sustainable development is integrated into the Europe 2020 Strategy which is based on three pillars: “smart growth” with the emphasis on education and innovation; “sustainable growth” with low carbon emissions, resilience to climate change and impact on the environment and “inclusive growth” through the creation of jobs and poverty reduction. As of 2020, the European Union has been investing more focus on Green Deal and digital transformation of the economy all in line with the SDGs. The continuation of the policy of sustainable development of the European Union is also reflected through the document **Next steps for the sustainable European future**. This document gives an overview of goals and principles of sustainable development (**UN 2030 Agenda**) and the ways the UN sustainable development goals have been embedded into the EU development agenda and priorities. The reports on the attainment of the SDGs at the EU level and EU sustainable development goals at the annual level clearly depict the importance of the integration of the SDGs into the national policies.

Given that EU integration is Serbia's strategic goal and all reforms are geared towards the attainment of that goal, there is full consensus to implement the sustainable development goals through the EU integration process.

Accordingly, the prioritisation process and the “nationalisation” of sustainable development goals should follow the same principles and standards established by the EU. This means that all development plans and policy documents in the process of Republic of Serbia's EU integration should also integrate the 2030 Agenda, and use it to profile the Republic of Serbia as a future EU member state.

EU is the biggest and most important development partner of the Republic of Serbia and it is expected that the support the Republic of Serbia receives from it, together with bilateral partners, will continue to support the implementation of reforms leading to the attainment of sustainable development goals.

In response to the member states' demand for stronger UN coordination, a joint approach geared towards more effective and coherent support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was adopted in the form of so-called MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support).

The EU integration process, and the findings of the Government's Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Goals were the source of information for setting development priorities in line with the new framework of Sustainable Development Goals – 2030 Agenda.

During the MDG reporting period, the overall economic situation in the Republic of Serbia was characterised by two main trends. The first, assessed as positive by many indicators, went hand in hand with the pronounced economic growth until 2008, with the Republic of Serbia managing to catch up given a relatively low GDP baseline. The second trend was characterised by negative indicator values being a result of the global financial crises, but also to a certain extent of unpreparedness of the Republic of Serbia to implement necessary structural reforms. Under the conditions of the global financial crises, the downturn of the economic activities was present and it negatively affected labour market indicators, drove an increase in poverty and caused an overall living standards decline in the country. After 2009, the absolute poverty rate increased to 8.9%, and the relative poverty rate to 24.5% (2014). The MDG implementation report provides an overview of the remaining challenges and priorities, comprising: social inclusion policies targeting vulnerable groups, such as displaced persons, persons with disabilities and the Roma; improving access to health-care protection; coverage of children by pre-school education (especially in rural areas); introducing a lifelong learning approach; youth unemployment; migration; environmental protection issues and disaster risk reduction.

A majority of these topics are built into the 17 SDGs and all 17 were assessed as highly important; however, in line with the findings of the report, special focus is invested on the following goals and targets: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all (Goal 8); end poverty (Goal 1); ensure healthy lives for all at all ages (Goal 3); ensure education for all (Goal 4); achieve gender equality (Goal 5); promote sustainable industrialisation (Goal 9); reduce inequality within and among countries (Goal 10); ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12); promote activities at all levels to combat climate change (Goal 13); promote peaceful and inclusive societies and rule of law (Goal 16) and partnerships for peace (Goal 17).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2016%3A739%3AFIN>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/12878705/KS-03-21-096-EN-N.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0650&from=EN>

<sup>4</sup> [https://rsjp.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/za\\_sajt\\_2\\_srp.pdf](https://rsjp.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/za_sajt_2_srp.pdf)

## 1.2. 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

2030 Agenda, with its 17 pertaining sustainable development goals and 169 targets has a wider coverage than the Millennium Development Goals and encompasses all three key dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Institutional development and cooperation to ensure the rule of law and peace are also covered by the relevant goals and targets.

### The sustainable development goals are:

- 1. No poverty:** end poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- 2. Zero hunger:** end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- 3. Good health:** ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- 4. Quality education:** ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- 5. Gender equality:** achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- 6. Clean water and sanitation:** ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- 7. Affordable and renewable energy:** ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- 8. Decent work and economic growth:** promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure:** build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation;
- 10. Reduced inequalities:** reduce inequality within and among countries;
- 11. Sustainable cities and communities:** make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- 12. Responsible consumption and production:** ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 13. Climate action:** take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- 14. Life below water:** conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- 15. Life on land:** sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
- 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions:** promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
- 17. Partnership for the Goals:** strengthen the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/UNCT%20Serbia%20SDGs%20brochure%20-%20SRB.pdf>

## 2. Sustainable Development Goals in Serbia's Strategic Framework

Mapping results show that, under its existing strategic framework, the Republic of Serbia is already committed to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nevertheless, there are areas where key sector specific strategies are missing or where the indicators pertaining to the implementation of certain strategic documents are not monitored, which hinders the assessment of Serbia's progress in the attainment of the relevant Goals

For mapping purposes, the Sustainable Development Goals are divided into 6 thematic entities in line with the negotiating clusters .

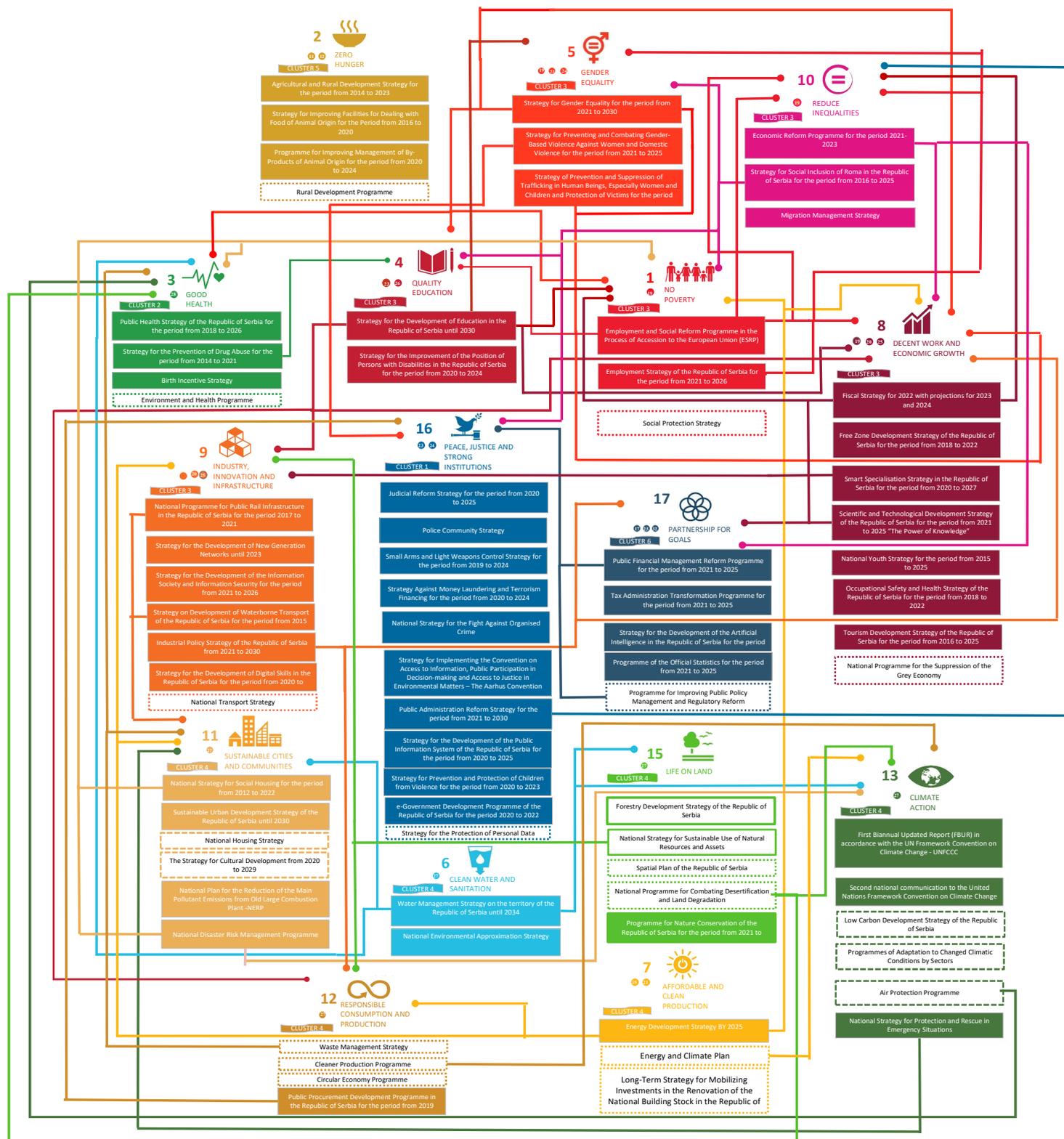
Negotiating chapter	Sustainable development goals
Fundamentals	16
Internal market	3
Competitiveness and inclusive growth	1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10
Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity	6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15
Resources, agriculture and cohesion	2
External relations	17

A detailed analysis of the mapping findings is provided in the Chapter 2.2. Annex to this document contains a table showing the coverage of the SDGs and their targets by the strategic framework of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the linkage of the SDGs with the negotiating chapters and clusters in the EU accession process of the Republic of Serbia.

The visual presentation of the mapping exercise below highlights the key strategic documents vis-a-vis the SDGs. Some strategies, such as the Employment Strategy, Strategy on Education, Strategy on Scientific and Technological Development and Youth Strategy, are relevant to multiple Sustainable Development Goals; in the diagram below, they are positioned under the SDGs whose achievement most crucially depends on the implementation of those strategies:

<sup>6</sup> Goal <sup>14</sup>, on sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, is not taken into consideration because Serbia does not have direct access to the sea. However, the indirect effects on seas by rivers is covered under SDG <sup>6</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> New negotiating structure in line with the revised EU Accession Methodology for the Western Balkans



## 2.1. Mapping Methodology

The mapping of the Republic of Serbia's strategic framework vis-a-vis the SDGs has encompassed all the strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia currently in effect. Where an area is not regulated by a strategy, the relevant plans and other public policy documents have also been taken into account. The database of the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies has served as the basis for identifying the strategic framework. In addition, where possible, the strategy implementation status is indicated. Finally, the strategic documents which adoption is planned under the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (revision 3, 2018) – NPAA – are also indicated. Strategic documents currently under development which adoption would contribute towards the attainment of certain SDGs are also presented. For each SDG, the background in the relevant area in the Republic of Serbia is briefly outlined, using the SDG monitoring indicators defined by the UN where available, and other indicators from the relevant national and international statistical sources and analyses. In addition, for each SDG, the relevant international processes, especially European ones, in which Serbia is involved and which are relevant to the achievement of that Goal, are outlined. In the mapping analysis, elements of the UN Methodology - RIA (Rapid Integration Assessment - RIA) were used for the identification of gaps in the strategic framework, as well as for the assessment of the relative importance of particular strategic documents for SDGs.

Strategic documents of local authorities were beyond the scope of this Report. According to the mapping of strategic/action plans conducted for the ninth time by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (May/June 2015) there were 897 ongoing planning processes in towns and municipalities, and 745 adopted valid plans. The majority of those documents are over-arching development strategies. Within sector specific policy documents, most cover the area of waste management, environmental and social protection. Other plans at local level relate to problems of vulnerable groups as are children, youth, Roma, migrants and displaced persons, but also to areas of importance for particular municipalities as is agriculture, tourism and small and medium-size entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship development. In accordance with the Law on Planning System ("Official Gazette of the RS", number 30/2018), local self-government units have started adopting their development plans. By the end of 2019, the first five development plans were adopted, and in the course of 2020, more decision to start their development were made in accordance with the Decree on mandatory elements of the development plans of the Autonomous Province and local self-government units ("Official Gazette of the RS", number 107/2020). Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia has developed the Guidelines for the development of local self-government development plans, in cooperation with the SCTM. They contain recommendation for linking priority goals of the local self-government units with the SDGs.

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<sup>8</sup> Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM), EU Exchange <sup>4</sup>, <http://www.skgo.org/storage/app/media/uploaded-files/Rezultati%20programa%20EU%20Exchange%204.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [https://rsjp.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/Prirucnik-za-lokalnu-samoupravu-web\\_final.pdf](https://rsjp.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/Prirucnik-za-lokalnu-samoupravu-web_final.pdf)

## 2.2. Mapping Results

### 2.2.1. Fundamentals (sustainable development goal 16)

This part presents mapping of the strategic framework of the Republic of Serbia in relation to the Goal 16 that defines relevant horizontal principles for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, such as strengthening of institutions, rule of law and judiciary.



#### GOAL 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

##### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

This sustainable development goal is dedicated to building state administration institutions and judicial system that provide citizens with a stable environments free of corruption and violence, wherein they can freely exercise their human and political rights. In the last twenty-five years, the Republic of Serbia has come a long way towards achieving this Goal. In the last few years, the number of murder victims has remained low (target **16.1 reduce all forms of violence**, UN indicator 16.1.2). A total of 89 murders were recorded in 2020. (86 murders in 2019) . The share of women aged 18-74 who were victims of physical, psychological or sexual abuse during the year (UN indicator 16.1.3) amounted to 10.4% in 2018 . The share of residents who feel safe to move only near the place where they live (UN indicator 16.1.4) amounted to 87.5% in 2019 .

Regarding the target **16.2 end all forms of exploitation and violence against children**, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs estimates that, in the last five years, the number of all forms of domestic violence has increased. Peaceful and inclusive societies provide the best environment for a child's development. Conflicts, violence, exclusion from participation in decisions about society and its future, limit the possibilities of children and young people, and thus violate their human potential. Enforcing violent discipline is detrimental to a child's development. Although its frequency is decreasing, it is still very present in the practice of raising a child. Some form of corporal punishment or psychological aggression by parents or guardians was experienced by 44.5% of children aged 1–17 (indicator 16.2.1) during the month preceding the 2019 Multiple Indicators Survey (MICS) . Within Roma settlements, as many as 67.3% of children aged 1-17 experienced some form of physical punishment or psychological aggression by their parents or guardians in 2019. The number of victims of trafficking per 100,000 inhabitants by sex, age and form of exploitation (indicator 16.2.2) amounted to 76 in 2018, and 39 in 2019 . According to the gender structure, women were victims in 82% of trafficking cases in 2019 . In the age structure, the victims are mostly minors, of which there were 25 in 2019 . According to the form of exploitation, sexual exploitation was the prevalent (23 recorded cases in 2019).

The project “Integrated Response to Violence Against Women and Girls” signed between Serbia and the UN (related to the target **16.3 rule of law and equal access to justice** and indicator 16.1.3) was successfully implemented in the period from 2016 to 2020. This project has contributed to the development of the social and institutional environment by creating zero tolerance and eradicating violence against women in Serbia; by improving the legislative and policy framework, strengthening prevention systems and mechanisms to help women survivors of violence and improving access to effective protection from violence and to specialized services. Activities were focused on working with women victims of violence, working with perpetrators and preventive

<sup>10</sup> SORS, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/18030304?languageCode=sr-Latn>

<sup>11</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN160103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>12</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16010401?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>13</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>14</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>15</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>16</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>17</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020203?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

work with boys and girls. The share of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to the competent authorities or other officially recognized mechanisms for resolving the conflict (UN indicator 16.3.1) was 67% in 2019. Pretrial detainees (UN indicator 16.3.2) made up 18.6% of the total prison population in 2020 (17.2% in 2019).

Over 12,000 victims of domestic violence were recorded, out of which 72.4% of victims were women in 2020. 27 women were killed as a result of domestic violence in 2020, while 8 women died in the period January-May 2021.

As per **the fight against organized crime (16.4)**, there is a decrease in the total number of crimes. For 74,394 adult perpetrators of criminal offences, the procedure upon criminal charges was completed in 2020, which is 20% less than in 2019. The total of 25,487 adults were finally convicted in 2020, which is 9% less than in the previous year. In the structure of criminal offenses committed by adults, the most numerous are criminal offenses against property: they account for 40% of reports (including unknown perpetrators), 25.3% for defendants, and 25.6% for all convicted adults in 2020. When it comes to the most severe crimes - crimes against life and body - 3.3% of the total number of these crimes were reported, 5.6% were charged, and 5.2% of adults were finally convicted in 2020.

There were 121 people in the process of identifying human trafficking, while 39 victims of human trafficking in 2019 were formally identified. The increase in the volume of human trafficking was recorded in 2020: out of a total of 146 potentially identified persons, 57 victims of trafficking were formally identified.

The most important activities in **the fight against organized crime (16.4)**, according to the Action Plan for Chapter 24, are increasing the efficiency of competent institutions, improving record keeping and information exchange at national and international level and further promoting regional and international cooperation through regional and international projects. One of the recommendations of the AP, important for monitoring and reporting on the attained targets for SDG 16, is to conduct investigations before and during the commission of the crime (proactive investigation), involve state authorities in the earliest stages of the procedure through information exchange and improve coordination, communication and exchange of information among state authorities. It is necessary to continue improving the interoperability of IT systems and strengthening human capacity through training programmes. Establishing uniform statistics for recording crimes at the level of police, prosecutor's offices, prisons and courts and consolidating these data are key in the fight against organized crime.

The total of 157 criminal offences with elements of corruption were reported, of which 63.1% related to abuse of office, 24.2% to accepting bribes, 12.1% to giving bribes and 0.6% to trading in influence in 2020. However, barely 1% of corrupt-related offenses are ever reported, while the number of accused and punished is far less (target **16.5 substantially reduce corruption**). According to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), the Republic of Serbia was ranked 94th out of 180 countries in 2020 (91st place in 2019). According to the corruption control indicator, there has been a decline in the fight against corruption.

<sup>18</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN160303?languageCode=sr-Cyrl> <sup>11</sup> P3C, LQOP, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN160103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>19</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN160302?languageCode=sr-Cyrl> <sup>13</sup> P3C, LQOP, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>20</sup> <https://iposrbija.rs/nacionalni-dan-zene-zrtve-nasilja/>

<sup>21</sup> SORS, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211195.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211195.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> SORS, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020203?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>24</sup> Centre for the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims, Report on Activities in 2019, <http://centarzztlj.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Izvestaj-o-radju-2020.-godina.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/534c031c-49b6-4e09-bd14-20a80e72778e/Akcioni+plan+za+P24+-+revidirana+verzija+23+07+2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=ng1hMov>

Corruption control was at the level of 37.5 percentiles in 2020 (40.4 percentiles in 2019) . A survey of citizens' perceptions of anticorruption efforts was conducted within USAID Government Accountability Initiative in 2020. According to this survey, the share of persons who had contact with public officials who either gave bribes or were asked to give bribes during the previous 12 months (UN indicator 16.5.1) amounted to 9% in 2020 (12% in 2019) . The most common reason for giving a bribe was to speed up the realization of a service to which citizens were already entitled. 54% of respondents believed that corruption was widespread in the Republic of Serbia in 2020. Only 23% of citizens believed that the level of corruption decreased compared to the previous year, while the rest of the citizens believed that corruption remained at the same level or even increased. Citizens estimated that the following three institutions contributed the most to the growth of corruption in the past 12 months: RS Government (23% of respondents), RS President (13% of respondents) and police (8% of respondents). The most corrupt institution was health, and the most widespread corrupt activity in 2020 was the use of positions to employ relatives or friends.

In accordance with the target **16.6 develop efficient, accountable and transparent institutions**, primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget (UN indicator 16.6.1) amounted to 98.1% in 2020 (95.6% in 2016) . The attainment of this goal largely depends upon the transparency of the state budget and the level of its realisation.

Access to membership, along with the strengthening the role of international organizations, is a prerequisite for action at the international level (target **16.8. broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance**). The Republic of Serbia is still not a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The negotiating position of the Republic of Serbia in international organizations, measured by participation in decision-making (UN indicator 16.8.1) was 0.52% in the UN General Assembly, 0.53% in the IMF, 0.54% in the IFC and 0.53% in the EBRD in 2020 .

In terms of target **16.9 provide legal identity for all**, by amending the Law on Non-Contentious Proceedings it is possible to subsequently register in the birth register, which is important for the Roma population. Keeping a register of birth certificates in electronic form and the possibility of registering the birth of a child electronically contribute to achieving this goal. The registration of children under the age of 5 in the birth register (UN indicator 16.9.1) was on the rise and amounted to 99.9% in 2019 . Within Roma settlements, the registration of children under the age of 5 in the birth register amounted to 98.5% in 2019 .

Independent regulatory bodies have been established (targets **16.10 ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, and 16.a strengthen relevant national institutions for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crimes**), which enable protection of citizens and access to information of public importance. The Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries that provide constitutional and legislative guarantees for access to information (UN indicator 16.10.2) . There is alignment of human rights institutions with the Paris Principles (UN indicator 16.a.1) .

<sup>26</sup> Mol, Report on activities of the Internal Affairs Unit for 2020, [http://www.mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/74913153-248b-4434-8b9d-1c57b6f64637/lzvestaj\\_o\\_radu\\_SUK\\_2020\\_ODBOR.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nxZoYJD](http://www.mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/74913153-248b-4434-8b9d-1c57b6f64637/lzvestaj_o_radu_SUK_2020_ODBOR.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nxZoYJD)

<sup>27</sup> Transparency International, <https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/serbia>

<sup>28</sup> Corruption control is one of 6 dimensions of the Worldwide Governance Indicators. Percentile rank <sup>0-100</sup>, higher value means better control of corruption.<sup>13</sup> P3C, LIOP, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>29</sup> Worldwide Governance Indicators, <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports> <sup>15</sup> P3C, LIOP, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16020201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>30</sup> USAID, Citizens' Perceptions of Anticorruption Efforts in Serbia 2020, <http://www.cesid.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/USAID-GAI-Izve%C5%A1taj-sa-istra%C5%BEivanja-javnog-mnjenja-Percepcija-gra%C4%91ana-o-borbi-protiv-korupcije-u-Srbiji-za-2020.godinu-1.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> SDG, SORS, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN160601?caller=SDGUN&languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/proportion-of-members-of-developing-countries-in-international-organizations?country=~SRB>

<sup>33</sup> SDG, SORS <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16090102?caller=SDGUN&languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>34</sup> SDG, SORS <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16090102?caller=SDGUN&languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

Police cooperation in the Republic of Serbia is comprehensive and takes place at all levels (strategic, operational, specialist and border) as well as through various communication channels (international - INTEROL, EUROPOL, SELEC, and bilateral ones).

In line with target **16.b promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies**, the proportion of the population who stated that they had felt discriminated against or harassed during the previous 12 months on any grounds of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (UN indicator 16.b.1) amounted to 6.9% in 2019 .

## **2. The EU and other international processes in the field of building the rule of law and accountable institutions**

The greatest contribution to the above progress has been made by the process of European integration, wherein substantial reforms of the public sector are being carried out in the direction of greater transparency and inclusiveness. EU processes in Serbia related to the thematic essence of Goal 16 are addressed in detail through the negotiation chapters 23 and 24 (contained in fundamentals 1) and the accompanying Action Plans. The Action Plan for Chapter 23 envisages that **the key measure for the prevention of corruption is the adoption of the new Law on Prevention of Corruption**, which was adopted by the National Assembly on 31 May 2019. The new Law, drafted in line with GRECO recommendations, further strengthens the independence of the Anti-Corruption Agency, provides sufficient financial and human resources for its work, and links with other relevant institutions (including access to their databases). The Law on Prevention of Corruption redefines and improves the terms of conflict of interest and incompatibility of public offices, provides the Agency with new tools for controlling the property of public officials and keeping a register of public officials, assets and gifts. The Agency is explicitly authorized to file motions to instigate misdemeanour proceedings and press criminal charges. The Agency's administrative investigation has been strengthened through the right of direct access to state authorities' databases. The Agency is also vested with responsibilities related to the Law on Lobbying and maintains the Register of Lobbyists and supervises lobbyists and lobbied persons. In the field of repressive fight against corruption, a key measure of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 is the development of efficient and proactive action in detecting and prosecuting corruption and organized crime. The Law on the Organization and Competences of State Bodies in the Suppression of Organized Crime, Terrorism and Corruption, adopted in 2016, established effective repressive bodies through the establishment of four special departments for the suppression of corruption at Higher Public Prosecutor's Offices in Belgrade, Kraljevo, Niš and Novi Sad, and equivalent Departments in Higher Courts and the Anti-Corruption Department in the police. Also, the establishment of a network of liaison officers within 13 authorities and organizations and the possibility of forming task forces to work on the most complex corrupt-related cases; financial forensics were introduced in the work of four special departments as well as in the Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime.

Serbia's anti-corruption legislation, according to the AP for Negotiating Chapter 23, is largely in line with European *acquis communautaire* and relevant international standards in the field of anti-corruption.

<sup>35</sup> Global Right to Information Rating, <https://www.rti-rating.org/country-data/Serbia/>

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/countries-in-compliance-with-paris-principles?region=Europe>

<sup>37</sup> SDG, SORS <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16120101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

The police, prosecutor's office and the court in the Republic of Serbia use different systems for monitoring criminal cases, which brings a large number of problems in practice. Only after the establishment of a single information system, i.e. electronic register for criminal offences with a corrupt element, precise systematization and classification of data will be established, as well as regular verification and exchange of information, which will enable reliable reporting on corruption and organized crime. Mutually compatible forms in the police, courts and prosecutor's offices should also include the possibility of monitoring cases of proactive actions, acting upon reports of the Agency, State Audit Institution, Tax Administration, Public Procurement Administration, etc.

According to the EC report on the progress of the Republic of Serbia for 2021, the Republic of Serbia should especially increase its efforts in the field of judicial reform in the upcoming period. Further strengthening of the judiciary and independence of the prosecutor's office, amending the laws on the High Judicial Council and the State Prosecutorial Council, adoption and implementation a human resource strategy for the entire judiciary are necessary, as well as establishment of a unified and centralized case management system. In its fight against corruption, the Republic of Serbia should build an effective coordination mechanism that would operationalise the objectives of prevention policy and effectively deal with corruption, improve records of investigations, indictments and final judgements in high-level corrupt-related cases, including confiscation of proceeds from crime, effectively implement all pieces of anti-corruption legislation in order to strengthen the role of the Anti-Corruption Agency and adopt a new anti-corruption strategy. With regard to fundamental rights, the Republic of Serbia should strengthen human rights institutions and guarantee their independence, adopt and implement new anti-discrimination strategies, actively investigate and convict hate crimes, and ensure consistent implementation of national legislation relating to minorities, including the Roma population. Also, in the field of fight against organized crime, the Republic of Serbia should show convincing results in terms of effective investigations, prosecutions and final judgements in organized crime cases, including financial investigations; it should systematically strengthen the freezing and confiscation of proceeds from crime and ensure clear separation of powers and regulations regarding the interception of communications for criminal investigations and for security purposes.

There is a comprehensive international legal framework regulating this field in the UN and EU. The most important global document in the field of combating crime is **the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols Thereto** adopted in Palermo in 2000. It aimed to point out the seriousness of the problem and improve international cooperation in the fight against organized crime. The Convention was supplemented by 3 Protocols: 1. Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, 2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Human Beings and 3. Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants. The Convention legally binds its parties to undertake concrete measures in fighting organised crime (incrimination of belonging to a criminal group, money laundering, corruption, adopting of more efficient mechanisms of extradition and police cooperation). The Protocols also provide internationally adopted definitions of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, while simultaneously envisaging series of measures to combat these forms of crime.

**Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels** (2012) affirms that the rule of law and stable legal framework represent the basis of sustainable development. Independent judiciary is a precondition for the rule of law, while the state parties are invited to enable access to justice for all. The role of International Criminal Court is recognised and cooperation with this institution is demanded.

**UN Convention against Corruption** adopted in 2003 is legally binding and demands that the states should implement anti-corruption measures addressing the aspects of prevention, criminal prosecution, international cooperation, confiscating property and exchange of information. When it comes to the prevention of corruption, the states are demanded to establish anti-corruption bodies, which Serbia did do, as well as to improve transparency and responsibility in managing public finances. As for criminal prosecution, the states are demanded to incriminate not only

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<sup>38</sup> [https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/eu\\_dokumenta/godisnji\\_izvestaji\\_ek\\_o\\_napretku/serbia\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/eu_dokumenta/godisnji_izvestaji_ek_o_napretku/serbia_report_2021.pdf)

receiving bribe, but also interfering with the investigation and money laundering. The protection of witnesses and whistleblowers is also envisaged. Confiscation of the property acquired through corruption on the international level is the most important aspect of this Convention.

**The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** adopted in 1979 provides definitions of discrimination against women. State parties are obliged to include gender equality into their respective legal systems and prohibit discrimination, as well as to secure judicial protection of these rights. The state parties are also obliged to report to the UN on the implementation of the Convention once in every four years. In October 2013, Serbia ratified the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO Convention)**. The next step should be transposition of the CAHVIO into national legislation and improvement of the position of women victims of violence, as well as criminal prosecution of the perpetrators.

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** from 1989 is adopted by the widest range of parties among all international conventions. This document guarantees all the rights of the child interconnected with a number of sustainable development goals.

**International Pact on Civil and International Rights** (1966) is the convention which generally protects the fundamental rights serving as the basis for modern society, such as freedom of thought, prohibition of torture and slavery, arbitrary detention, equality before law, unprejudiced court proceedings and minorities' rights.

**Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** (European Convention on Human Rights), the implementation of which lies within the competence of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, is the key document to support the development of human rights in Europe. It stipulates the protection of all typical human rights (life, freedom, safety, just court proceedings, conscience and religion, etc.). It served as the basis for the adoption of the UN Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2009, which integrated all European and international documents referring to human rights, as well as the state-of-the-art solutions pertaining to the protection of data, bioethics and transparency of state administration. This Charter has the status of the Treaty on European Union.

**EU Convention against Corruption Involving Public Officials of European Union and other Member States** (1997) stipulates obligations to qualify both passive and active corruption as criminal offences, while it also defines responsibility of the head of a business entity for the active corruption operated on behalf of such entity. Related **Criminal Law Convention on Corruption** adopted in 1999 stipulates international mechanisms for criminal prosecution of corruption, while its implementation lies within the competence of the GRECO.

**Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence** of 2011, the so-called Istanbul Convention provides legally binding definition of "gender". This Convention stipulates obligatory incrimination of psychological violence, every involuntary sexual act, forced marriages and sexual harassment, particularly emphasising so-called "honour crimes".

**Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking** adopted in 2005, prohibits all forms of trafficking in human beings, simultaneously dedicating particular attention to the protection of human trafficking victims.

**Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the period from 2021 to 2030** contributes to strengthening social inclusion and implementation of non-discriminatory policies at the EU level. Objectives of this Strategy are: Protection of human rights, equal opportunities for all, integration into society, free and independent decision-making, freedom of movement and elimination of discrimination.

<sup>39</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8376&furtherPubs=yes>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2013/43/1>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2021/47/1>

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

**Reduction of violence/combating crime (16.1)** is the problem which is partially addressed by a number of strategic documents. **Police Community Strategy** (is not time-bound, but its AP has expired) deals with the introduction of policing models based on the close connections with local communities and the joint action by the police and communities to tackle security issues. The Strategy envisages activities of violence prevention, as a part of the general development of the citizens' security culture, yet it is not specifically dedicated to such activities.

**Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for the period from 2021 to 2025** with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023 provides for elimination of all forms of domestic violence (particularly against women and girls), along with provision of adequate protection and support. Goals defined under this Strategy relate to the improvement of prevention, provision of more efficient and effective protection and support, creation of conditions for adequate prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, improvement of the position of victims and witnesses and establishment of a comprehensive and functional data collection and analysis system.

**The Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence for the period from 2020 to 2023** with the Action Plan for the period from 2020 and 2021 represents a comprehensive response of society to violence against children, in accordance with the dynamics of challenges, risks and threats, through an improved prevention, protection and support system. It envisages measures related to raising the capacity of professionals in the sectors of education, social and health, police and justice, as well as improving the capacity of children, parents, guardians and caregivers to prevent violence against children and provide support to children and families at risk. Special attention is paid to developing support mechanisms for victims and perpetrators of violence. The **Action Plan for Chapter 23** envisages a number of measures to improve the rights of the child (improvement of juvenile justice in order to fully implement European standards).

**Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence** was adopted on 23 November 2016. Application of the Law commenced on 1 June 2020. Specialist training of judges, prosecutors and police officials is being continuously implemented, in order to efficiently apply new statutory solutions and decrease the number of children suffering violence in the hands of their carers (end **abuse of children 16.2**, UN indicator 16.2.1)

**Strategy of Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims for the period from 2017 to 2022** (accompanying AP has expired) is also related to **the target 16.2**, especially the UN indicator 16.2.2 (number of human trafficking victims). This document envisages a series of measures aimed at preventing and sanctioning trafficking in human beings, with an emphasis on the protection of children from human trafficking and exploitation in pornography and prostitution and their consequences. The Action Plan for Chapter 24 envisages a series of measures which Serbia is obliged to implement in order to build up its capacities to combat trafficking in human beings.

**National Judicial Reform Strategy for the period from 2020 to 2025** as one of the strategic goals defines strengthening the independence and autonomy of the judiciary, which contributes towards the attainment of **the target 16.3 rule of law and equal access to justice for all**. The Law on Free Legal Aid was adopted on 9 November 2018, and has been implemented since 1 October 2019, enabled to introduce systemic free legal aid. In the first year of the implementation of

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/80/1/reg>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2017/77/1/reg>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/101/1/reg>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.mpravde.gov.rs/vest/30909/vise-od-27000-gradjana-koristilo-pravo-na-besplatnu-pravnu-pomoc-i-podrsku.php>

<sup>46</sup> SPACE I, 2019, [https://wp.unil.ch/space/files/2021/02/200405\\_FinalReport\\_SPACE\\_I\\_2019.pdf](https://wp.unil.ch/space/files/2021/02/200405_FinalReport_SPACE_I_2019.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> SPACE I, 2020, [https://wp.unil.ch/space/files/2021/04/210330\\_FinalReport\\_SPACE\\_I\\_2020.pdf](https://wp.unil.ch/space/files/2021/04/210330_FinalReport_SPACE_I_2020.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/44/1/reg>

the Law on Free Legal Aid, 3,672 request for free legal aid were submitted, and 3,386 or 91% of the requests were granted . Municipal service for provision of free legal aid extended the necessary legal aid, and 669 beneficiaries were referred to lawyers. **The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23** has a separate sub-chapter dedicated to judiciary, envisaging a series of activities serving the same purpose as the National Strategy for Judicial Reform. To facilitate these activities in the domain of independent judiciary, some constitutional amendments are also necessary. The total number of detainees in the Republic of Serbia amounted to 1,734 in 2019 (1,691 in 2018), and the total number of prison population amounted to 11,077 in 2019 (10,871 in 2018) .

**Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy for the period from 2019 to 2024** (accompanying AP has expired) aims to reduce the threat of illegal possession and misuse of small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives for civilian use. The implementation of the measures defined by the Strategy will ensure the safety of citizens through efficient and effective control of small arms and light weapons by establishing comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms for identifying, preventing, prosecuting and controlling the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives. **Strategy for Combating the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction for the period from 2021 to 2025** (without accompanying AP) contributes towards increasing the level of security and safety. This Strategy defines the prevention of the development of such weapons, strengthening prevention, improving state capacities and increasing the level of international cooperation. The contents of the above mentioned strategies is directly linked to **the target 16.4 reduce illicit financial and arms flows**.

**Strategy Against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing for the period from 2020 to 2025 with the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022** intends to further develop the system to combat money laundering and terrorism financing in the Republic of Serbia to successfully confront all risks determined in 2018 in the Money Laundering Risk Assessment and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment. This Strategy creates the conditions to adopt measures that will be in line with the FATF standards and will successfully contribute towards the attainment of the set goals to fight against money laundry and terrorism financing. Goals set under the Strategy are directly linked with **the target 16.4 combat money laundry and all forms of organized crime** and the UN indicator 16.4.1 (total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows) The new Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing was adopted on 26 December 2020 in order to improve the existing system of detection and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing and harmonization with European directives in this area. A direct connection with the same target 16.4. is also established in **the National Strategy for the Fight Against Organized Crime** (not- time bound, accompanying AP has expired) which envisages general measures of institution building and capacity building for the fight against organized crime. This strategy does not have a valid action plan and is practically not implemented. **The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 24** deals extensively with issues of organized crime and money laundering, and the whole special subchapter is dedicated to this issue. It envisions activities to introduce a criminal intelligence system, link prosecuting authorities, conduct complex financial investigations, increase the seizure of proceeds of crime and strengthen firearms control.

The target **Fight against corruption (16.5)** was included in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2013 to 2018 . This Strategy was the basic national policy document in this area. It contained systemic measures to strengthen anti-corruption institutions, as well as specific measures in certain areas of social life (health-care, media, judiciary, etc.). Currently, this area is mostly covered by the Law on Prevention of Corruption the Law on Lobbying .

Anti-corruption measures are included in the **Public Administration Reform Strategy of the**

<sup>49</sup> [https://www.mfa.gov.rs/sites/default/files/inline-files/strategija05%20210\\_67562021.pdf](https://www.mfa.gov.rs/sites/default/files/inline-files/strategija05%20210_67562021.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/14/1/reg>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2009/23/1/reg>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2013/57/2/reg>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2019/35/3/reg>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-lobiranju-republike-srbije.html>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/strategija-reforme-javne-uprave-republika-srbija.html>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2019/82/1>

**Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 (accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025) and the Public Procurement Development Programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2019 to 2023** (accompanying AP for 2021). The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23 has a special subchapter dedicated to the fight against corruption. The Agency for the Prevention of Corruption found that of 62 activities defined in the revised Action Plan for Chapter 23, the total of 42% were implemented, 42% were not implemented and 16% could not have been assessed in the period from July to December 2020 .

The **target 16.6 effective and transparent institutions** is the central topic of the **Public Administration Reform Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025**, being the umbrella public policy document that is to ensure the continuation of the previous reforms and their extension to the entire public sector, and not only to the public administration. The general goal of this Strategy is to improve the work of public administration and the quality of policy making and to provide high quality services to citizens and businesses in accordance with the principles of the European Administrative Area. Specific objectives relate to institution building, human capacity development, improving service delivery and strengthening public administration accountability and transparency. This Strategy envisages the development of e-government, as well as more activities to combat corruption. **Public Financial Management Reform Programme for the period from 2021 to 2025 with its accompanying AP** should enable the realization of a sustainable budget through better financial management and control, strengthening the internal audit process and linking budget planning with public policies of the Government.

**The e-Government Development Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020 to 2022 with its accompanying Action plan** provides for the technical support to the Public Administration Reform Strategy of the Republic of Serbia and is closely related to it. The following specific objectives have been defined: development of infrastructure in e-government and ensuring interoperability, improving legal certainty in the use of e-government, increasing the availability of e-government to citizens and the economy through improving customer service and opening data in public administration. The development of e-government and digitisation are the priorities of this Government. So far, significant steps have been taken in this field. According to the report on the implementation of the APIGP, the connection of the 6 state bodies' databases has been completed: Registers (RB, RM, RD), MoI - residence and MoI - biometric documents, PA - inquiry, NEA - review of records and certificate of paid amounts, CROSO - verification of employment status, PDIF - records of beneficiaries). Access to connected databases is provided through the e-ZUP services, which started operating on June 2020. The management structure is defined. Professional capacities are currently satisfactory. E-Government services will be used by 40% of the Internet population in 2021 .

Other instruments of support to the Public Administration Reform Strategy in **the Republic of Serbia are the Professional Development Programmes of Civil Servants in the Republic of Serbia and the Professional Development Programme of Employees in Local Government Units**, which aim to contribute to increasing the efficiency and economy of public administration and its effectiveness in exercising rights and the interests of citizens, economic entities and other holders of rights and obligations, through the creation of conditions for continuous and comprehensive increase in the level of competencies of civil servants, which directly affects target 16.6. develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and the UN indicator 16.6.2. (share of citizens satisfied with recent experience with public authorities).

**Responsive and participatory decision-making (16.7)** is the target regulated in the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia . This Law prescribes the mandatory conduct of con-

<sup>57</sup> [https://www.acas.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ASKpoglavlje\\_23web1.pdf](https://www.acas.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ASKpoglavlje_23web1.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> [https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/yrndWJ\\_60ec21463954b.pdf](https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/yrndWJ_60ec21463954b.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2020/85/1/reg>

<sup>60</sup> SORS, Use of information and communication technologies in Serbia, 2021, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G202116016.pdf>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/30/1/reg>

sultations with all stakeholders, as well as public hearings, in the process of drafting public policy documents. In this way, it contributes to the improvement of the role of citizens and the economy in the system of public policy management and the adoption of regulations. Another important obligation from this Law is that public policies are to be adopted on the basis of previously conducted analyses and be based on facts that correspond to the UN indicator 16.7.2 (proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group). The same obligations are foreseen in the Action Plan for the implementation of the initiative **Open Government Partnership in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2022 . The Strategy for Gender Equality for the period from 2021 to 2030** (no accompanying AP) defines the strengthening of gender equality in political life and ensuring equal participation of women and men in decision-making on public affairs. **Programme for Improving Public Policy Management and Regulatory Reform for the Period from 2021 to 2025** (in the adoption procedure) will contribute to the improvement of the consultative process, which also affects the implementation of 16.7.

With regard to the representation of national minorities, the Government has adopted regulations based on the Law on Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units, which give priority to the employment of members of underrepresented minorities. This directly affects the **target 16.7. responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making**.

Target **16.9. provide legal identity for all, including birth registration** addresses the problem mostly related to the Roma population in Serbia. **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025** (AP has expired) does not address this, although this document envisages measures for which having a birth certificate (school enrolment, employment) is a prerequisite. In practice, with regard to registration in the registers, the exercise of the right of members of the Roma national minority to registration in the register of births in administrative procedure has been ensured, as well as effective judicial protection in the procedure of determining time and place of birth .

**Action plan for the implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2022** endeavours to improve the integrity, transparency, efficiency and accountability of public authorities, through building public trust, cooperation with civil society organisations, strengthening citizen participation in governance, fighting corruption, access to information, use of new technologies, and in connection with achieving more effective and more responsible work of public authority. In addition, there is the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance, which, according to the general assessment, is quite liberal one, Strategy for Implementing the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters – The Aarhus Convention (not- time bound, accompanying AP has expired) is a strategic framework that defines the direction of sustainable development and strengthens basic democratic principles. **Strategy for the Development of the Public Information System of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025 with the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022** constitutes a legal framework to exercise: freedom of expression, freedom of the media, security of journalists, media pluralism, developed media market, strengthened journalistic profession, educated citizens and institutions capable of enforcing regulations. The Strategy for the Protection of Personal Data (working group has been formed) will additionally contribute to the regulation of the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. For now, it is the response of the Republic of Serbia to the target **public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms (16.10)**.

The following strategic documents contribute to strengthening the institutional infrastructure at the national level and encouraging international cooperation in the fight against crime and

<sup>62</sup> <http://mdul.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/Akcioni-plan-POU-2020-2022.-.dec-2020.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2016/26/1/reg>

<sup>64</sup> Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia, Report on the implementation of the APIGP, August 2017.

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/103/1/reg>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/11/1>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2017/94/1/reg>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2009/23/1/reg>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/71/1/reg>

terrorism: **National Strategy for the Fight Against Organised Crime** (not-time bound, accompanying AP has expired), **National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight Against the Terrorism for the period from 2016 to 2021 (with the accompanying AP)**, **Strategy for the Fight Against Cybercrime for the period from 2019 to 2023** (accompanying AP has expired) and **the Strategy Against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing for the period from 2020 to 2024 (with the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022)**. The strategic framework covering forms of violence against vulnerable groups (children and women) consists of: **Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence (with the accompanying AP for 2020 and 2021)** and **the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence for the period from 2021 to 2025** (with the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023). These strategies contribute towards making progress in the attainment of the target **strengthen relevant national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime (16.a)**.

Target **enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development (16.b)** was addressed under the Strategy for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination (expired in 2018). A new Strategy is being drafted. It will be focused on the prevention of discrimination in all its forms.

## 2.2.2. Internal market (sustainable development goal 3)

The level of development of market and existing capacities in term of the health protection of all citizens (SGD 3) has been analysed in this chapter.

### GOAL 3: Good health

#### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

The health care of the population in the Republic of Serbia is directly implemented through the network of healthcare institutions, of which there were 350 in 2019, while the health care system employed about 100,880 workers. The number of doctors per 100,000 inhabitants in Serbia was 286 in 2019. Health care at the primary level is provided by 158 state-owned health centres, with a developed network of health stations and outpatient clinics and institutes that provide health care to certain groups of the population, i.e. health activities in certain areas of health care. Inpatient (hospital) health care was provided by 128 health-care institutions: infirmaries with the health centres (21), general hospitals (40), special hospitals (34), institutes (2), clinics (16), clinics (7), university hospital centres (4) and clinical centres (4), with with a total bed stock of 6.2 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2019. The number of patients in inpatient health care institutions was slightly more than 1.4 million, and the total number of realized hospital days was 10 million. The average duration of treatment per patient was 6.8 days, and the average occupancy of hospital beds was 63.4% .

In addition to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the “Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut” Institute is the reference house for health and health-related data in the Republic of Serbia. At the international level, the most relevant set of indicators in this area is collected by the World Health Organization (WHO) from several databases, such as the European Health for All Database and the Global Health Observatory. Although not completely, some other systems of international monitoring of health indicators process data for Serbia. These are the European Core Health Indicators (ECHI) and the European Health Consumer Index (EHCI) attempting to monitor the impact of the health systems of 35 European countries from a user perspective. According to this index,

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/14/1/reg>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2013/60/1/reg>

<sup>72</sup> <sup>25</sup> public health institutes, <sup>4</sup> clinical centres, <sup>4</sup> university hospital centres, <sup>34</sup> special hospitals, <sup>41</sup> general hospitals, <sup>7</sup> clinics, <sup>158</sup> health centres, <sup>22</sup> institutes/offices, <sup>16</sup> institutes, <sup>35</sup> pharmacies and <sup>4</sup> military health institutions

<sup>73</sup> Public Health Institute of the RS “Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut” - Statistical Booklet, <https://www.batut.org.rs/download/publikacije/pub-2019a.pdf>

<sup>74</sup> <https://healthpowerhouse.com/media/EHCI-2018/EHCI-2018-report.pdf>

it follows that in recent years a step forward has been made in the quality of health care, i.e. that the Republic of Serbia was on the 18th place in 2018 . This is attributed to the introduction of a new information system that should lead to a reduction in waiting lists and waiting times , as well as due to investment in radiation therapy and MR scanners and the introduction of e-Prescriptions. The unique waiting list for 26 health services is updated on a daily basis and posted on the RHIF website , and the total number of people on this list was around 53,000 in mid-September 2021. Patients only need a health booklet to take the medicine in the pharmacy. Since October 2017, when the implementation of e-Prescription began, slightly more than 139 million electronic prescriptions have been issued, and 4,517 pharmacies have been integrated into this system . Efficient healthcare services and e-Health are explicit priority of the Government.

As per the target **3.1 maternal mortality ratio**, according to the maternal mortality ratio (UN indicator 3.1.1) in Serbia, 9.7 women died per 100,000 children born in 2020 . 99.9% of births in 2019 were performed under the supervision of trained health personnel (UN indicator 3.1.2) .

When it comes to the **target 3.2. end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age**, the mortality rate of children under 5 years (UN indicator 3.2.1.) was 5.8 deaths under 5 years of age per 1,000 live births in 2020 . The mortality rate of children under 5 in Roma settlements was 9 deaths under 5 per 1,000 live births in 2019. However, there has been a significant improvement in the position of the Roma population as both mortality rates of Roma children in Roma settlements have been reduced: mortality of children under 1 year - 12.8 in 2014 and 8 in 2019, while mortality of children under 5 - 14.4 in 2014 and 9 in 2019 . This can be attributed to the improvement in health insurance coverage, which provided easier access to health services and improved coverage of prenatal services during the same period when these services were provided to Roma through Roma health mediators (UN indicator 3.8.1) The neonatal mortality rate (UN indicator 3.2.2) was 3.78 infant deaths aged 0-27 days per 1,000 live births in 2020 .

The coverage of vaccinated children against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis was 95.1%, and poliomyelitis 95.1%. MMR vaccination was performed in 88% of cases, while the coverage of newborns with BCG vaccine was 98.2% . The mortality rate from infectious diseases (per 100,000 inhabitants) in Serbia was 2.64 in 2019. In the same year, 68 new AIDS cases were registered, while 21 people died, so the mortality rate was 0.3 per 100,000 inhabitants . The incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 inhabitants (UN indicator 3.3.2) was 9.02 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019, which indicates a constant decline over many years, which places Serbia among the countries with a low burden of tuberculosis in Europe. These indicators are related to the **target 3.3. end the epidemics of communicable diseases**.

Target **3.4 refers to the reduction of mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and promotion of mental health of people**. Chronical non-communicable diseases: heart and blood vessel disease, malignant tumours, diabetes, obstructive pulmonary disease, injuries and poisonings, mental health disorders and others have dominated our national pathology for decades. Cardiovascular diseases and malignant tumours accounted for over two thirds of all causes of death in Serbia during 2019. More than half of all deaths (51.6%) were due to deaths from circulatory system diseases, and almost one in five deaths (21%) was a victim of a malignant

<sup>75</sup> CEVES, „Kakvo nam je zdravље“, 2017, [https://ceves.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Kakvo-nam-je-zdravlje\\_Sistem-indikatora-za-dru%C5%A1tveni-dijalog.pdf](https://ceves.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Kakvo-nam-je-zdravlje_Sistem-indikatora-za-dru%C5%A1tveni-dijalog.pdf)

<sup>76</sup> <http://fzo.rs/index.php/osiguranalica/listeceanja/lc-dnevni-presek>

<sup>77</sup> PPS, Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Government Programme, 2017-2020.

<sup>78</sup> Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births - death of a woman that occurred during pregnancy or within 42 days of pregnancy, regardless of the duration and location of the pregnancy, due to any pregnancy-related cause, but not as a consequence of accidental or secondary causes.

<sup>79</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03010101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>80</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03010201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>81</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>82</sup> [https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS/Europe%20and%20Central%20Asia/Serbia%20%28Roma%20Settlements%29/2019/Survey%20findings/Serbia%20%28National%20and%20Roma%20Settlements%29%202019%20MICS%20SFR\\_English.pdf](https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS/Europe%20and%20Central%20Asia/Serbia%20%28Roma%20Settlements%29/2019/Survey%20findings/Serbia%20%28National%20and%20Roma%20Settlements%29%202019%20MICS%20SFR_English.pdf)

<sup>83</sup> Report of the RS Government on the implementation of the millennium goals for the period from 2000 to 2015, October 2015

<sup>84</sup> Number of infant deaths aged 0-27 days per 1000 live births, in the year of observation.

<sup>85</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03020201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>86</sup> SORS, SDG, Статистички годишњак за 2020, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Pdf/G20202053.pdf>

<sup>87</sup> Public Health Institute of the RS "Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut", Report on communicable diseases, <https://www.batut.org.rs/download/izvestaji/Godisnji%20izvestaj%20o%20zaraznim%20bolestima%202019.pdf>

tumour. 3% of the population of Serbia died from complications of diabetes, 2.8% died from the consequences of injuries and poisoning, and 2.7% of our citizens died from obstructive lung diseases. From 2009 to 2019, the general mortality rate in Serbia increased by 3.2%. Mortality rates from obstructive pulmonary disease (by 6.8%), malignant tumours (by 6%) and diabetes (by 0.7%) increased in the observed period. At the same time, there was a decrease in mortality rates from injuries and poisonings (by 12.3%) and heart and blood vessel diseases (by 2.7%). Indicator 3.4.1 mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease for Serbia amounted to 21.1% in 2020. The suicide mortality rate per 100,000 population (UN indicator 3.4.2) amounted to 13% in 2020 .

The Republic of Serbia is on the 18th place in terms of cancer incidence, and on the second place in Europe in terms of mortality . This clearly indicates the need for greater engagement in **prevention and early detection of cancer, which the Republic of Serbia has been doing since the introduction of organized screening programmes since 2012**. Breast cancer is the most common malignant tumour in women in the Republic of Serbia. Every year, about 4,500 women fall ill and 1,700 die from the disease. One in eight women has had breast cancer in her lifetime. The Republic of Serbia has started a **programme for early detection of breast cancer, mammography screening**, which is free for all women aged 50 to 69. With over 1,100 new patients and approximately 500 deaths, cervical cancer was the second leading cause of disease and the fourth leading cause of death among our female population in 2019 . To that end, an organized screening programme for early detection of cervical cancer has been launched, which is free for all women aged 25 to 64.

**Target 3.5.** deals with risks, especially **prevention and treatment of substance abuse and harmful use of alcohol**. With the support of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction - EMCDDA, an early warning system for new psychoactive substances has been established within the Centre for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addiction. The Protocol on the Early Warning System for New Psychoactive Substances has also been completed. The international cooperation of the Ministry of Health in this area is defined by the Law on Psychoactive Controlled Substances.

The level of traffic safety is crucial for the progress in achieving the **target 3.6. prevent and halve the number of global deaths from road traffic accident**. Death rate due to road traffic injuries (UN indicator 3.6.1) was 7.5 people per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019.

There is progress in attaining the target **3.7. ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education**. Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (UN indicator 3.7.1) amounted to 30% in 2019 . According to the type of education, the participation of these women was significantly more present among those with high and higher education (38.2%), while among those with secondary education it was 27.7% and among those without education and with lower education it was 15.4% in 2019 . Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group (UN indicator 3.7.2) amounted to 13.6 in 2020 .

**Universal health coverage (3.8)** in Serbia is achieved through compulsory health insurance for all employees, the self-employed and their families, and the state provides insurance for pensioners, unemployed, refugees and vulnerable groups. Resource equipment (number of doctors per capita, number of beds), as well as annual health expenditures from public and private funds are above comparative expectations. Total health expenditures in Serbia amounted to 8.54% of GDP in 2018 , while per capita allocations amounted to 617 US dollars. The dominant financier of health care is the state, which allocates 60% of the total funds, while the share of the private sector is 40%. However, according to the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), the Republic of

<sup>88</sup> Public Health Institute of the RS "Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut" - Statistical Booklet, <https://www.batut.org.rs/download/publikacije/pub-2019a.pdf>

<sup>89</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN030401?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>90</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN030402?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>91</sup> Cancer Screening Office, <http://www.skriningsrbija.rs/src/opste-informacije-o-skriningu/>

<sup>92</sup> Public Health Institute of the RS "Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut" ,Statistical Booklet, <https://www.batut.org.rs/download/publikacije/pub2019a.pdf>

Serbia was one of the countries with the largest proportion of citizens with unmet medical needs with 4.8% in 2019. (1.7% EU-27 average in 2019) . The reason for this should be sought in the uneven territorial distribution of resources. According to the coverage of basic health services (UN indicator 3.8.1): prenatal care - four or more visits (UN indicator 3.8.1b) was 96.6% , immunization against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (DTP) (UN indicator 3.8.1c) was 91.8% , use of improved sanitation facilities (UN indicator 3.8.1d) was 98.6% in 2019.

Target **3.9. refers to reducing of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution and contamination**. Of the total number of controlled public water supply systems of urban settlements in the Republic of Serbia in 2019, 25 or 16% of water supply systems had both physical-chemical and microbiological malfunctions, while 106 or 70.2% were correct. A decrease in air pollution with sulphur dioxide compared to the previous year was recorded in Belgrade, Vranje, Zaječar, Zvečan, Jagodina, Kosovska Mitrovica, Kruševac, Smederevo, Sremska Mitrovica, Trstenik and Čuprija, while in Bor, Veliki Crljeni, Kraljevo, Lazarevac and Obrenovac pollution was higher than the previous year. The average annual value of nitrogen dioxide immission exceeded the allowed average annual limit value for populated areas of 40.0 g/m<sup>3</sup> only in the case of Smederevo. The most polluted settlements in terms of the presence of soot were Zrenjanin and Elemir . Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning per 100,000 inhabitants (UN indicator 3.9.3) amounted to 0.2 in 2020 .

Target **3.a the implementation of the “World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control”** also focuses on the reduction of health-related risks. This area is regulated by a set of laws in Serbia (Law on Tobacco, Law on Protection of the Population from Exposure to Tobacco Smoke), although according to the National Plan for the Adoption of the EU acquis communautaire the focus must be on harmonizing the Law on Tobacco with Directive 2014/40/EU, i.e. on drafting a comprehensive law on tobacco control and amendments to the Law on Tobacco, in order to apply the highest standards in the field of safety and health. Regardless of certain measures in the field of tobacco control, such as the ban on smoking in public places, higher cigarette prices and the emphasis on harmfulness, Serbia ranks first in the region prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older in the total population (UN indicator 3.a.1) with 37.6% in 2018 . It is followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina with 37.2% and Greece with 36.2%.

<sup>93</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03070101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>94</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03070103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>95</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03070201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>96</sup> Public Health Institute of the RS “Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut”, National Account for Health

<sup>97</sup> Eypocrat, Statistics | Eurostat (europa.eu)

<sup>98</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03080101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>99</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03080109?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>100</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN03080113?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>101</sup> Public Health Institute of the RS “Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut” - Statistical Booklet, <https://www.batut.org.rs/download/publikacije/pub2019a.pdf>

<sup>102</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN030903?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

The right to health is included in numerous international contracts and declarations. The most important are: Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), European Social Charter (1961), International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1989), Covenant on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (1984), Convention on the Rights of Child (1989), UN Millennium Declaration (2000-2001), Declaration of Commitment for HIV and AIDS (2000) and International Guidelines for HIV and AIDS and Human Rights (Consolidated version 2006), WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2006).

**Constitution of the World Health Organization (1946)** is an act establishing the principle that governments of states are responsible for their citizens health. International Health regulations (2005) were adopted in accordance with this act which make the states obliged by the law to monitor and inform the WHO on events representing risk for international health.

**European Social Charter (1961)** stipulates that everyone has a right to social and health protection, regardless the resources he disposes with. This Charter provides for states special obligation to eliminate causes for illnesses, promote health, prevent epidemics and stimulate personal responsibility for good health.

**Covenant on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979, 1999)** is the only international covenant that protects reproductive right of women and stipulates that states have to ensure equal access to medical services, including measures for families planning and free medical attention and appropriate nutrition during pregnancy, post-natal period and breast-feeding.

**Resolution on Principles on Protection of Persons with Mental Illness (1991)** and for Improvement of Mental Health Care promotes the rights of persons with mental illness and includes propositions related to informed agreement, secrecy of data and standards for medical care and treatment. One of the principles forbids discrimination based on mentally retarded characteristic.

**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)**, Convention of the Council of Europe on Counterfeiting of Medical Products and other Similar Crimes involving Treats to Public Health (2011).

By **Tallinn Charter** "Health System for Health and Wealth" member countries are committed, among other, to promote joint values for solidarity, equity and participation in creation of health policies, planning and distribution of resources and other activities that provide for paying special attention to the needs of poor and other sensitive population groups; to invest in health systems and stimulate investments in other sectors; to promote transparency and to be responsible for the results of health systems so as to attain measurable results.

By **"WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control" (2006)** Serbia is obliged to apply different measures for tobacco control that will reduce offer and demand for tobacco products, and thus the harmful effects on citizens health.

In addition, relevant international documents are: Lisbon Strategy (2000), European Charter of Patients' Rights (2002), Policy Framework for the European Region, "Health for All" (2005), International Health Regulations (2005), European Strategy for the Health and Development of Children and Youth, to Action 2005-2008 "(2005), Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Amendment to Art. 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (2005), Declaration on Health in All Policies (2007), Tallinn Charter on Health Systems for Health and Well-Being (2008), Charter on Fundamental Rights of the European Union

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<sup>103</sup> World Health Organisation, <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.sdg.3-a-data?lang=en>

(2010), EU Health Program 2021-2027 (2021), European Guide to Improving Quality in Comprehensive Cancer Control (2015), Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in the WHO European Region (2016), Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health (2017), Declaration on Primary Health Care (Astana 2018).

When it comes to public health, the *acquis communautaire* (Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection) covers areas related to tobacco control, serious cross-border health threats, including communicable diseases, blood, tissues, cells and organs, patients' rights to cross-border health insurance, medical products, cosmetics and medical devices, as well as those relating to mental health, drug abuse prevention, health inequalities, diet, reducing the harmful effects of alcohol use, cancer screening, a healthy environment including injury prevention, promoting safety, active and healthy aging, and European action in areas of rare diseases .

EU Health Programme for the period 2021-2027 represents a set of measures and activities to improve the quality and resilience of health systems, especially in times of health crises. It is based on 4 strategic goals: improvement and encouragement of health care (infection prevention, health promotion and international cooperation), limiting cross-border threats to health (prevention and effective action, increasing stocks of basic products and increasing reserves of medical equipment), improving medical equipment and devices (increasing availability of medical products and equipment ) and increasing the sustainability, resilience and efficiency of health systems (strengthening data processing capacity, service delivery and digital transformation, increasing access to health care, implementing EU regulations and informed decision-making and integrating national health systems).

In line with the third revised National Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis Communautaire* (NPAA) , Serbia continues to comply with European standards in public health areas, such as: biomedicine, tobacco control, cancer screening, infectious diseases, alcohol and drugs, nutrition, health inequalities, rare diseases, cross-border healthcare provision, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda:**

Current **Public Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2026 with its accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2018 to 2026**, is at present the most comprehensive document in the field of preservation and improvement of health and health care. The Strategy defined the following goals: improving health and reducing inequalities in health, improving the environment and the working environment, preventing and combating disease and leading risks to public health, promoting community health, supporting the development of affordable, quality and efficient health care, developing an evidence-based public health system , improving governance, communication and partnerships for the implementation of the principle of “health in all policies”.

In addition to that Strategy, there are also valid programmes for certain diseases and risk reduction of diseases, which are determined by regulations, but which, as a rule, do not have action plans and their implementation is not reported. The measures and activities envisaged by these programmes often overlap with the measures and activities set out in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Public Health Strategy, so they do not have a clearly defined hierarchical relationship, which makes it difficult to prioritize while planning the budget and other necessary resources for their implementation.

<sup>104</sup> Report on Screening for the Chapter <sup>28</sup>, 2015.

<sup>105</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0522&from=EN>

<sup>106</sup> [https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/nacionalna\\_dokumenta/npaa/npaa\\_2018\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/nacionalna_dokumenta/npaa/npaa_2018_2021.pdf)

<sup>107</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/61/1/reg>

In the direction of optimizing the planning framework in the field of health, the development of a new strategy for the development of health care in the Republic of Serbia for the period until 2026 has begun. However, it has not yet been completed for the interruption in its drafting due to outbreak of a pandemic caused by the Corona virus. The optimization of the planning framework should regulate the hierarchical relationship of the documents and reduce the number of programmes that determine public policies for communicable and chronic non-communicable diseases, as well as integrate policies established in programmes that do not have a term.

The Republic of Serbia previously planned to attain target **3.3. end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases through the Programme for the Protection of the Population from Infectious Diseases**. However, it has expired. In the meantime, the **Strategy for HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control for the Period from 2018 to 2025 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2018 to 2021** has been adopted. Also, the Environment and Health Programme is being prepared. It should envisage measures to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases. Continuation of work on the new health care development strategy will create conditions for the development of a programme that would unite the fight against communicable diseases, with emphasis on strengthening the readiness of the health system for rapid identification of new causes and responses to protect the population.

Target **3.4 non-communicable diseases** was strategically included in the Republic of Serbia through the Strategy for Prevention and Control of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases, which was valid until 2018. The **National Programme for the Protection of Mental Health in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2019-2026 with the accompanying Action Plan until 2022** contributes to the same target, with four specific objectives whose achievement can improve “the state of well-being in which each person realizes his/her potential, copes with daily stress, can work productively and contribute to his/her community”.

Likewise, **Programme for Rare Disease of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2022, with the accompanying Action Plan was adopted**. It is harmonised with the Recommendation of the Council of Europe on activities within the area of rare diseases.

**Programme for Improving Cancer Screening in the Republic of Serbia for 2020-2022 along with its Action Plan** was adopted with the view to establishing better cancer control through better planning and coordination of a wide range of services provided within the national and health-care system, from prevention and health improvement to rehabilitation and palliative care.

National **Programme for the Control of Bacterial Resistance to Antibiotics for the period 2019 to 2021 with its accompanying Action Plan** should ensure the safety of antibiotic use, given that the Republic of Serbia is one of the countries with high consumption of antibiotics, and thus among countries with a high rate of resistance, which has become a growing global problem in the health care programmes.

Current response of the Republic of Serbia to the target **3.5. prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol** is contained in the **Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for the period from 2014 to 2021 and accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2018 to 2021**, developed in line with the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) and pertaining EU Drugs Action Plan (2013-2016). The plan is to develop a new strategy that would be valid from 2022. Likewise, **National Programme for the Prevention of Harmful Use of Alcohol and Alcohol-Induced Disorders** was adopted in 2017, it is not time-bound and has no accompanying AP.

Target **3.6 prevent and halve the number of road traffic accidents** was addressed by the Road

<sup>108</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/%20%20%20strategija/2018/61/%20/reg>

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2019/84/1>

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2019/86/1/reg>

<sup>111</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2020/105/1>

<sup>112</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/prilozi/1.html&doctype=reg&abc=cba&eli=true&eliActId=427789&regactid=427789>

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/1/2>

Safety Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2015 to 2020. Upon the expiry of this Strategy, no other strategic document to contribute towards the attainment of this goal has been adopted.

As per the target **3.7. reproductive health, the Birth Incentive Strategy** was adopted (not time-bound, without accompanying AP), which, as a special goal, among other things, states the mitigation of the economic cost of raising a child; reconciling work and parenthood; strengthening the psychological cost of parenthood; promoting reproductive health and combating infertility.

Also, the **National Programme for Support of Breastfeeding, Family and Developmental Care of Newborns which was adopted in 2018** (not time-bound, no accompanying AP), endeavours to help families in the right approach to raising children at a more sensitive age.

In order to achieve the target **3.9 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination, Water Management Strategy of the territory of the Republic of Serbia** until 2034 was adopted. It provides for measures to prevent and reduce water pollution by discharging wastewater from point and bulk springs directly into watercourses and groundwater. Action plan for the implementation of this Strategy for the period from 2021 to 2023 was adopted in July 2021. This AP covers the regulation and upgrading of the legal and institutional system, as well as the development of integrated water protection and use. Also, it is planned to adopt new public policy documents for air protection, waste management and land protection (Air Protection Programme, National Programme for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation and Waste Management Programme are under development).

Target **3.a the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control** will be attained through the implementation of measures envisaged under the **Public Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2018 to 2026 with its accompanying Action Plan**.

### 2.2.3. Competitiveness and inclusive growth (sustainable development goals 1.4, 5, 8, 9, 10)

The results of mapping the strategic framework in relation to the goals relevant to human resource development are described in this segment. SDG 1 related to poverty reduction is closely related to the realization of goals 5 (gender equality) and 10 (inequality), so they are described as one whole, while SDG 4 (education) is described as a separate whole.

The results of mapping the planning framework of the Republic of Serbia in relation to the sustainable development goals 8 and 9, which primarily relate to sustainable economic growth, employment, improvement of working conditions and sustainable industrialisation, infrastructure development and innovation, have also been analysed hereunder.

## GOAL 1: No poverty

### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

Globally, poverty eradication is one of the biggest challenges. Although the number of people living in extreme poverty decreased from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 689 million in 2017, a large number of

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2017/115/1/reg>

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.mdpp.gov.rs/doc/strategije/Strategija-podsticanja-radjanja-2018.pdf>

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2018/53/1/reg>

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.paragraf.rs/proposi/strategija-upravljanja-vodama-u-srbiji-do-2034.html>

people still live without access to food, drinking water and sanitation . The global extreme poverty rate fell from 36.2% in 1990 to 9.2% in 2017 . According to World Bank estimates, there is a further decline to 643 million people in extreme poverty and a decline in the extreme poverty rate of 8.4% in 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic was expected to increase the number of people in extreme poverty to 703 million and increase the extreme poverty rate to 9.1% in 2020 . In response to this still current problem, **SDG 1** promotes no poverty, support for the most vulnerable, access to resources and services, and support in the event of conflicts and disasters caused by climate change.

Poverty is widespread in the Republic of Serbia. The extreme poverty rate (UN indicator 1.1.1) was 5.4% in 2017 . This is also the most relevant data for the attainment of the target **1.1. eradicate extreme poverty everywhere and for all**. The high rate of people at risk of poverty (UN indicator 1.2.1) is also worrying, which according to the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILK) was 23.2% in 2019 (EU 27 16.5% in 2019) . The at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (UN indicator 1.2.2) amounted to 31.7% in 2019 (21.1% EU-27 average in 2019) . The already high inequality in the distribution of income, which is measured by the Gini coefficient was on the rise in Serbia and amounted to 33.3 in 2019 (above the EU-27 average of 30.2 in 2019) . These indicators are also important for monitoring the attainment of the target **1.2. reduce the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty**. The greatest degree of vulnerability can be seen in certain groups such as Roma, especially of those living in informal settlements, internally displaced persons, persons with high degree of disabilities, elderly people without pensions, persons without education or with low education and the population outside urban areas.

Related to the target **1.3. implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including coverage of the poor and the vulnerable**, social protection expenditures in Serbia amounted to 14.8% of GDP in 2020. The structure of these expenditures was dominated by pensions (10.7% of GDP), while expenditures for social assistance amounted to 2.9% of GDP according to the consolidated budget (which is comparable to countries in the region). The proportion of the population covered by social protection systems in the total population (UN indicator 1.3.1) was 10.2% in 2020 .

Target **1.4 refers to ensuring equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land, new technology and financial services, including microfinance**. Vulnerable groups in Serbia face problems in accessing the most important economic resources such as land, labour and funding sources. A large part of the Roma population lives in dangerous living conditions and without formal ownership rights. There is also great inequality in access to services, starting with education and health related services, but also transport services that are not adapted to the needs of people with disabilities, or public spaces that provide important services for citizens. The Law on Non-Banking Financial Institutions, which would enable microfinance, has not yet been adopted in Serbia. Three organizations that deal with this business in the Republic of Serbia receive financial support from international donors, but they cannot place funds directly, but through commercial banks, which significantly complicates the procedure and makes these funds more expensive for end users. Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services: use of basic drinking water services (UN indicator 1.4.1a) amounted to 99.1% in 2019. (in the Roma settlements 98.2%) . Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services: use of basic sanitation services (UN indicator 1.4.1b) amounted to 98.4% in 2019. (in the Roma settlements 86.4%) .

Related to the target **1.5. reduce the exposure and vulnerability of the poor to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters**, the analysis made after the disastrous floods of 2014 showed that the floods had greater consequences for vulnerable groups (primarily Roma, refugees and displaced persons and people with dis-

<sup>118</sup> World Bank, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34496/9781464816024.pdf>

<sup>119</sup> World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/topic/poverty>

<sup>120</sup> World Bank, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34496/9781464816024.pdf>

<sup>121</sup> World Bank, Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population) - Serbia | Data (worldbank.org)

<sup>122</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Pdf/G20201283.pdf>

<sup>123</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg\\_01\\_20/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_01_20/default/table?lang=en)

<sup>124</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN01020201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>125</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc\\_peps01n/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_peps01n/default/table?lang=en)

<sup>126</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tessi190/default/table?lang=en>

<sup>127</sup> MoF, Consolidated balance sheet of the state: <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci/>

<sup>128</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN010301?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

abilities), and also that women-run households were at higher threat. It is estimated that 125,000 citizens fell below the poverty threshold after the floods, which resulted in the increase in the poverty rate by almost 7% compared to the level in the previous year. The number of deaths and missing persons as a result of natural disasters per 100,000 inhabitants (UN indicator 1.5.1b) was 0.04 in 2020. The number of internally displaced persons as a result of natural disasters (UN indicator 1.5.1a) was 880 in 2020. The number of people directly affected by natural disasters per 100,000 inhabitants (UN indicator 1.5.1c) was 22.91 in 2020. Direct economic losses caused by disasters in relation to global GDP (UN indicator 1.5.2a) amounted to 0.00013% in 2019. Direct economic losses caused by disasters (UN indicator 1.5.2b) amounted to 6.6 mil. US dollars in 2019. Agricultural losses caused by disasters amount to 1.7 mil. US dollars, while losses in the housing sector amounted to 4.9 mil. US dollars in 2019. The assessment of the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the Sendai Framework (UN indicator 1.5.3) was 0.025 in 2018. The share of local governments that adopted and implemented disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the national disaster risk reduction strategy (UN indicator 1.5.4a) was 4.6% in 2018.

Target **1.a** refers to mobilization of resources from a variety of sources in order to provide means to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions. Proportion of total government spending on essential services (UN indicator 1.a.2) amounted to 51.2% in 2020 (6.7% education, 14.5% health and 30% social protection).

Target **1.b** refers to creating sound policy frameworks at all levels to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions and gender sensitivity. Although the analysis of the effects of public policies on society is currently not conducted in all areas of public policy, guidelines according to the EU methodology have been prepared for such assessments. The Republic of Serbia is also the first country in the Western Balkans region to conduct such an analysis within the framework of the adoption of the Economic Reform Programme.

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

One of the goals in the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth was to save 20 million people from the risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020. This goal was not achieved and in 2021 the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan was adopted. It defined the goal of reducing poverty by at least 15 million people (including at least 5 million children) by 2030, which is fully in accordance with the implementation of the SDG 1. The European Platform against Poverty includes taking a number of measures within public policies, greater and more successful use of EU funds to support social inclusion, promote social innovation, work through partnerships and exploit the potential of the social economy and improve coordination between countries.

These EU principles are also transferred through the EU accession process to the candidate countries, such as the Republic of Serbia. Within a large number of negotiating chapters, the Republic of Serbia is harmonizing its regulations with EU principles that are key to poverty reduction. These are primarily Chapters 19 (social policy and employment), 2 (free movement of workers), 26 (education and culture) and 23 (justice and fundamental rights).

The topic of poverty reduction is also part of important regional initiatives in which the Republic

<sup>129</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN01040102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>130</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN01040105?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>131</sup> <http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/lzvestaj-o-proceni-potreba-za-oporavak-i-obnovu-posledica-poplava.pdf>

<sup>132</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/deaths-and-missing-persons-due-to-natural-disasters?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>133</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/internally-displaced-persons-from-disasters?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>134</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-people-directly-affected-by-natural-disasters?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>135</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN01050201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>136</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN01050202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>137</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN010503?languageCode=sr-Cyrl&displayMode=table>

<sup>138</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN01050401?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>139</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN010602?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

of Serbia participates. The Southeast Europe Development Strategy until 2030 is based on the leave no one behind principle. One of the basic objectives contained in the Strategy is poverty reduction. This goal is sought to be achieved through greater access to education and health, connecting the countries of the region in the field of energy and transport and implementing the process of digitisation of the economy. Within this initiative, the Regional Cooperation Council additionally contributes to the joint work in the area of the Southeast Europe.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

Many strategies of the Republic of Serbia do recognize the importance of sectoral public policies for achieving the overall goal of poverty reduction. SDG 1 is deeply linked to the areas of education, employment, rule of law, institution building, health and many other segments that are the subject of other sustainable development goals.

**The Employment and Social Reform Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union (ESRP)** is one of the most important documents for the attainment of the SDG 1. The ESRP, adopted in May 2016, contains key reforms and programmes of the Republic of Serbia in the field of employment and labour market, human capital and skills, social inclusion and protection, as well as challenges in the pension and health care system. There is a special emphasis on youth unemployment as a vulnerable category.

The Social Protection Development Strategy adopted in 2005 is outdated. **A draft of the new Social Protection Strategy of the Republic of Serbia** has been prepared and is expected to be adopted. The draft Strategy envisages that by 2025 the number of men, women and children living in any form of poverty be reduced by 25%; public expenditures for social protection services in local self-government units be increased by 25%, but also that the number of children and young people (0-25) users of homes be reduced by 20%. The Strategy will significantly contribute to the attainment of **target 1.1. eradicate extreme poverty everywhere and for all, 1.2. reduce the number of men, women and children living in any form of poverty and 1.3. implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including the poor and the vulnerable. The Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026** with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023 is of great importance for the attainment of these goals. It defines the reduction of relative poverty as one of its priorities (reducing the at-risk-of-poverty rate among employees).

Target **1.4 ensure equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land, new technology and financial services, including microfinance** is not covered by one strategy, but the elements for the attainment of this goal are rather recognised under the existing strategic framework. **Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 with its accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023** recognises disproportionately higher drop-outs and disabled access to all levels of education for children from vulnerable categories. The Action Plan defines measures to solve this problem by improving the accessibility, fairness, comprehensiveness and openness of pre-university and higher education. The topic of regulating the ownership and legal status of housing in Roma settlements and increasing the participation of Roma women in ownership is recognized within the **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016**

<sup>140</sup> <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Smernice-za-procenu-uticaja-na-drustvo-SRP.pdf>

<sup>141</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1615364474217&uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0102>

<sup>142</sup> <https://www.rcc.int/docs/581/south-east-europe-strategy-2030>

<sup>143</sup> <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SIPRU-ESRP-2016-Srpski.pdf>

<sup>144</sup> <https://www.udruzenjesz.rs/images/PDF/nacrt-strategije-socijalne-zastite-2019-2025-27032019.pdf>

to 2025 (its accompanying AP has expired). **The National Strategy for Social Housing for the period from 2012 to 2022** with the accompanying Action Plan contributes to the improvement in this area through the realization of a special goal that will enable increased availability of housing costs for low and medium income households.

**National Disaster Risk Management Programme** (not time-bound, without accompanying AP) is the most important strategic document directly linked with the target **1.5. reduce the exposure and vulnerability of the poor to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters**. This document recognizes the great consequences of the 2014 floods on socially vulnerable categories, but also on the increase in the poverty rate in the post-flood period. The measures proposed by the programme are not directly focused on vulnerable groups, but together they form a framework for improving all elements of disaster risk management, in order to achieve a significantly greater reduction in disaster risks that cause loss of life, leads to a reduction in livelihoods, health protection and loss of economic, physical, cultural and environmental assets of people, companies, communities and countries.

The general government fiscal framework, which is an integral part of the **Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024**, determines expenditures for basic services (education, health and social protection). This is directly related to the attainment of the **1.a mobilization of resources to end poverty**. There is a trend of improving the social component of the budget by better targeting social assistance programmes and increasing allocations for health and education functions.

**SDG 1 No poverty** is directly correlated with several other sustainable development goals and synergy effects are expected in their achievement. These are **SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** and **SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries**.



## GOAL 5: Gender equality

### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

Formally speaking, women and men in the Republic of Serbia have equal rights. However, indicators show that the overall socio-economic position of women is in a much worse position compared to men. Gender inequalities in the labour market are pronounced, especially when it comes to economic activity. The difference in employment rates between men and women is high and amount to 14,5 percentage points in favour of men in 2020 (56.6% and 42.1% respectively). Unemployment of both men and women has decreased in previous years, as well as the difference in unemployment rates, which was 0.7 percentage points in favour of men in 2020. (8.7% and 9.4% respectively). Young women in the labour market have a higher unemployment rate compared to young men, and this difference was 4.5 percentage points in 2020. (29.5% and 25% respectively). Serbia is the first non-EU country to introduce a Gender Equality Index, and the data show that it lags behind the average of EU member states in all domains of gender equality (except the domain of power), with a serious gap in the domains of labour and money. The Gender Equality Index (published in 2018) was 55.8 and was 3.4 points higher in 2016 compared to 2014. The share of women-owned companies was well below their share in the overall economy. Women owned only 31.7% of entrepreneurial shops and companies in Serbia, and among the companies that receive funds in competitions to support business development, only one in five is owned by them. This threatens to further reduce women's participation in the economy and contribute to economic development, according to a report prepared for the UN Office, within the project "Gender Analysis of Economic Programmes and Financial Measures in Serbia".

<sup>145</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2021/18/1/reg>

<sup>146</sup> [https://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1-SROVRS-2030\\_MASTER\\_0402\\_V1.pdf](https://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1-SROVRS-2030_MASTER_0402_V1.pdf)

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2016/26/1/reg>

<sup>147</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2012/13/1>

<sup>148</sup> <http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/Nacionalni%20program%20upravljanja%20rizikom%20od%20elementarnih%20nepogoda.pdf>

A legal framework is needed **to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (5.1)**. In accordance with the existence of a legal framework that promotes, implements and monitors equality and the prohibition of discrimination based on sex (UN indicator 5.1.1), the percentage of achievement is measured on a scale of 0-100%. The percentage of achievements of legal frameworks that promote, implement and monitor gender equality in the Republic of Serbia in the category Comprehensive legal frameworks and public life was 90%, Violence against women 58.33%, Employment and economic benefits 100% and Marriage and family 72.73% in 2018

One of the important segments of the gender equity is **to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public private spheres (5.2)**. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months (UN indicator 5.2.1) amounted to 9.2% in 2018. Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months (UN indicator 5.2.2) amounted to 0.5% in 2018.

**Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (5.3)** which further disadvantage women and girls. The total of 1.2% of girls (UN indicator 5.3.1a) got married before the age of 15, and 5.5% of women before the age of 18 (UN indicator 5.3.1b) in 2019. The largest number of such marriages is present among the Roma population, the poorest and those without education and with lower education.

**Unpaid work, lack of care for domestic work (5.4)** limit the possibility of integration of women in the labour market. Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (UN indicator 5.4.1) amounted to 14.1% in 2015. Observed by sex, this type of work was more present among women and amounted to 19.2% of the total time (for men it was 8.7%) in 2015. **The Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026** defines a priority goal called the improved position of unemployed persons on the labour market. Measures for improving the position of women in the labour market are specifically defined under the mentioned goal. This strategic approach directly contributes to reducing unpaid work and increasing the degree of women's inclusion in the labour market.

To attain gender equality it is of great importance **to ensure women's equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making (5.5)**. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (UN indicator 5.5.1a) was in the increasing trend and it amounted to 38.8% in 2020. Proportion of seats held by women in local governments (UN indicator 5.5.1b) also recorded an increase and it amounted to 37.2% in 2020. Proportion of women in managerial positions (UN indicator 5.5.2) incessantly increased and it amounted to 21.7% in 2020.

Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and the exercise of reproductive rights further contribute to the equalization of the position of men and women (SDG 5.6). Proportion of women who made their own informed decisions regarding reproductive health care (UN indicator 5.6.1) amounted to 84,2% in 2019. Making independent decisions on sexual and reproductive health based on relevant information, respect, protection, fulfilment and guarantee of sexual and reproductive rights is integrated at the level of specific objectives in the **National Programme for Preservation and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia (not time-bound, no accompanying AP)**.

<sup>150</sup> SORS, Labour Force Survey, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215671.pdf>

<sup>151</sup> Gender Equality Index, [https://www.rodnaravnopravnost.gov.rs/sites/default/files/2018.12/Indeks%20rodne%20ravnopravnosti%202018\\_SRP.PDF](https://www.rodnaravnopravnost.gov.rs/sites/default/files/2018.12/Indeks%20rodne%20ravnopravnosti%202018_SRP.PDF)

<sup>152</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN050101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>153</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN050201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>154</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN050202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>155</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN05030101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>156</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN05030103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>157</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN05040101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

In the Republic of Serbia, there is an improvement in the legal framework that enables women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, heritage and natural resources, which is in line with the **5.a level of legal framework guaranteeing women equal rights to ownership and control over land (UN indicator 5.a.2)** was ranked in 2019.

There is a growing trend in the ownership and **use of mobile phones, which contributes to the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women (5.b)**. Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone in the Republic of Serbia (UN indicator 5.b.1) amounted to 94.1% in 2020. Observed by sex, 96.2% of men and 92% of women owned a mobile phone in 2020.

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

At the EU level, **the Gender equality Strategy for the period from 2020 to 2025** strives for exercising freedom of choice, equal opportunities for progress and equal participation in the decision-making of men and women. In order to achieve these goals it is necessary to: end gender-based violence, eliminate stereotypes, create equal employment opportunities, reduce gender gap in salaries and pensions, and increase women's participation in decision-making processes.

## 3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda

**Gender Equality Strategy for the period from 2021 to 2030** (no accompanying AP) is crucial for the attainment of the SDG 5, as well as for strengthening the capacity of institutions and organizations, improving the coordination of key actors and raising citizens' awareness of gender equality. In order to overcome the gender gap and achieve gender equality, the Strategy defines following goals: 1. Reduced gender gap in economy, science and education, 2. Ensure equal opportunities for exercising and protection of human rights provided, 3. Affordable and comprehensive health care established and social security provided and 4. A comprehensive and functional system for creating and implementing gender-responsive public policies and budgets has been established.

The following strategic documents are also important for further progress in achieving the SDG 5: **Strategy of Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims for the period from 2017 to 2022 (AP expired)**, **Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence for the period from 2021 to 2025 (the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023)**, **National Programme for Preservation and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia** (not time-bound, no accompanying AP) and the **Strategy for the Development of Education by 2030 (AP for the period 2021 to 2023)** that integrates the principle of equal access to education for boys and girls.

<sup>158</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN05050101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>159</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN05050102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>160</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN050502?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>161</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN05060101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>162</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2017/120/2/reg>

<sup>163</sup> The level to which a country's legal framework supports land rights based on six indicators of international law and internationally accepted good practices, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). A higher ranking (1-6) means a higher level of guarantees of gender equality in land ownership and / or control within the legal framework<sup>164</sup> P3C, ЦОП, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN050702?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>165</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN050801?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>166</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN>



### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

The topics of **lower income growth (10.1)**, **inclusion (10.2)**, **anti-discrimination (10.3)** and **fiscal policy in the area of wages (10.4)** are particularly important for the implementation of SDG 10.

**The degree of inequality in income distribution (10.1)** is largely influenced by the level and growth of income of the part of the population that earns lower incomes. The quintile ratio in Serbia was 6.5 (2019), which means that 20% of the richest population earns 6.5 times higher income than 20% of the poorest. The value of this indicator measured in previous years is significantly higher than the average value for the EU-27 - 4.99 in 2019 and is higher than the highest value recorded in EU member states. In 2019, the Gini coefficient was 33.3, which was above the EU-27 average (30.2) in 2019, as well as above the Gini coefficient for the EU countries with the most pronounced inequalities - which requires an appropriate response through policy measures. The Gini coefficient measured by the distribution of consumption for Serbia has relatively low values - it is at the bottom of the world list of Gini coefficients, which means that the inequality of consumption in Serbia is quite moderate. It is similar with the other indicator of inequality - the quintile ratio, which in Serbia has a relatively low value compared to other countries, pointing out that inequality of consumption in Serbia is not particularly pronounced, i.e. that it is moderate by world standards. The growth rate of household expenditure or income per capita (UN indicator 10.1.1) of the lower 40% of the population was 3.9%, while at the level of the entire population it was 1.5% in the period from 2013 to 2017. The degree of inequality within a society largely depends on **the presence of social, economic and political inclusion (10.2)**. Proportion of the population living below 50% of the median income (UN indicator 10.2.1) was 18.2% in 2017. Many of these topics are contained in the Employment and Social Reform **Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union (ESRP)**. When it comes to the inclusion topic, the **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025** (the accompanying AP has expired) is also important.

Elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices and the promotion of appropriate legislation form the basis of **the fight against discrimination (10.3)**. Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (UN indicator 10.3.1) was 6.9% in 2019. In the field of combating discrimination, the principles of the Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, which expired in 2018, are still being respected (the preparation of a new Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination is underway).

**Fiscal policies as well as wage and social protection policies (10.4)** contribute to a greater degree of equality. Labour share of GDP, comprising of the wages and transfers for social protection (UN indicator 10.4.1) recorded a growing trend and it amounted to 40% in 2018. Fifteen years ago (in 2006), the average net salary in Serbia was 21,707 RSD (258 EUR), and nowadays it has reached 60,073 RSD (511 EUR) (average for 2020). Fiscal policy in the area of wages is primarily defined under the **Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with the Projections for 2023 and 2024, but is also covered by the Public Administration Reform Strategy for the period from 2021 to 2030 (the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025) and the Economic Reform Programme for the period from 2021 to 2023.**

<sup>167</sup> <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/sr/%D1%83%D1%81%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%98%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D1%83-%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80/>

<sup>168</sup> SORS, Survey on incomes and living conditions for 2019 (SILC), <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Pdf/G20201283.pdf>

<sup>169</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc\\_di11/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_di11/default/table?lang=en)

<sup>170</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tessi190/default/table?lang=en>

<sup>171</sup> <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/5cc59e2ae1c6bc6738a8413edf13447e-0090012021/related/GPSP-and-Median-income-2013-2018-Final.pdf>

<sup>172</sup> World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.DST.50MD?locations=RS>

In the Republic of Serbia, there is a high degree of **regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions (10.5)**. The situation and regulations in this area are defined through the monetary policy of the National Bank of Serbia. The following indicators are monitored within the financial soundness indicator (UN indicator 10.5.1): return on assets, regulatory capital in relation to total assets, liquid assets in relation to short-term liabilities, non-performing loans in relation to total loans, net open foreign exchange position in relation to regulatory capital and capital assets in relation to risky assets. The return on assets was 1.1% in 2020 (1.8% in 2019). Regulatory capital in relation to total assets was 13.6% in 2020 (15.1% in 2019). Liquid assets in relation to short-term liabilities amounted to 36.4% in 2020 (36.1% in 2019). Non-performing loans in relation to total loans amounted to 3.7% in 2020 (4.1% in 2019). Net open foreign exchange position in relation to regulatory capital was 0.2% in 2020 (0.6% in 2019). Working capital against different assets amounted to 21.6% in 2020 (22.4% in 2019).

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

The potential for influence of developing countries at the global level largely depends on the **representation and voice in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions (10.6)**. The Republic of Serbia is still not a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Proportion of members and voting rights of the Republic of Serbia in international organizations (UN indicator 10.6.1) is: 0.52% in the UN General Assembly, 0.53% in the IMF, 0.54% in the IFC and 0.53% in the IBRD in 2020.

## 3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda

In the conditions of growing migration at the global level, the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies is of great importance, which is in line with **the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people (10.7)**. The Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries that, by conducting migration policy, greatly (score 3) contributed to the creation of conditions for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people (UN indicator 10.7.2). The number of refugees in the Republic of Serbia (UN indicator 10.7.4) was 26,090 in 2020 (26,472 in 2019). The umbrella strategy in this area is **the Migration Management Strategy** (accompanying AP has expired). This Strategy defines strategic goals in order to improve migration policy: 1. Establishment and implementation of mechanisms for comprehensive and consistent monitoring of migration flows, 2. Complement the strategic, legal and institutional framework for the integrated migration management, 3. Protecting the rights of migrants, creating conditions for integration and social inclusion while raising awareness of the importance of migration. The area of mobility and migration was additionally covered through expired strategies: the National Strategy for Resolving the Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons for the period from 2015 to 2020 and the Strategy for Combating Irregular Migration in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2020.

<sup>173</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN10030101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>174</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN100401?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>175</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/2403040401?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>176</sup> NBS, [https://nbs.rs/sr\\_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/](https://nbs.rs/sr_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/)

<sup>177</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/proportion-of-members-of-developing-countries-in-international-organizations?country=~SRB>

<sup>178</sup> The indicator consists of <sup>30</sup> categories that are evaluated through a query. The value of the indicator is <sup>0-4</sup>, the higher the value (assessment) better management of migration policy.

<sup>179</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/policy/WPP\\_2019\\_Profiles.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/policy/WPP_2019_Profiles.pdf)

<sup>180</sup> UN High Commissioner for Refugees, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=eBTU7w>

<sup>181</sup> [https://kirs.gov.rs/media/uploads/Dokumenti-i-publikacije/Strategije/strategija\\_upravljanje\\_migracijama.pdf](https://kirs.gov.rs/media/uploads/Dokumenti-i-publikacije/Strategije/strategija_upravljanje_migracijama.pdf)



### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

Education is a driver of sustainable development and economic growth. At the global level, great progress has been made in achieving primary education. The number of children not attending classes has halved since 2000. This is accompanied by an increase in literacy and a larger number of girls who go to school. However, there are still large differences in the availability of education for various marginalized groups. SDG 4 promotes the idea that all children complete primary and secondary education by 2030.

Serbia is one of the few European countries where secondary education is not compulsory, which adversely affects the achievement of the target **4.1 ensure free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all**. In the population older than 15, according to the SORS, about 35% of individuals either have not completed primary education or have only completed primary education (13.68% without education and 20.76% of the population with primary education). The number of children at all levels is declining due to demographic changes, and coverage is in a slight decline. In primary education, the coverage was 96.6% in the academic year 2019/20 (98.1% in the academic year 2018/2019). Although almost all students continue their education after primary school, due to the large dropout rate, the coverage of the generation with secondary education was only 87.4% in the academic year 2019/20 (87.4% in the previous academic year as well). The quality of primary education is best illustrated by the OECD PISA test (last conducted in 2018 in Serbia) according to which the results of fifteen-year-olds from Serbia on the reading test were 439 points (OECD average 487), mathematics 448 points (OECD average 489) and science 440 (OECD average 489). The success of students in the educational system is reflected in the rate of completion of primary and secondary education. Completion rate – first cycle of the primary education (UN indicator 4.1.2a) amounted to 99.9% in 2019. Completion rate – second cycle of the primary education (UN indicator 4.1.2b) amounted to 99.5% in 2019. Completion rate – secondary education (UN indicator 4.1.2c) amounted to 97.7% in 2019.

Educational system in Serbia is not inclusive enough, because its capacities to respond to the educational needs of various vulnerable social groups are insufficiently developed, alike affirmative measures for enrolment of students from families of lower socio-economic status. Many educational institutions have architectural barriers that prevent the education of people with disabilities. There are a total of 48 specialized schools for students with disabilities in Serbia. Primary education for students with disabilities was implemented in 167 schools with a total of 4,494 students in the academic year 2019/20. Secondary education for students with disabilities was implemented in 40 schools with a total of 2,144 students in the academic year 2019/20.

Related to the target **4.2 ensure the access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education**, the coverage of children with the compulsory preparatory preschool programme (PPP) (UN indicator 4.2.2.) was at a satisfactory level and amounted to 96.4% in 2020. However, the coverage of children aged 0-3 with preschool programme and education was 31.8%, while the coverage of children aged 3 to PPP was 62.6% in 2020. A major problem is the inadequate network of preschool institutions and insufficient capacity. Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex (UN indicator 4.2.1), amounted to 97.2% in 2019.

Related to the target **4.3 affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education**, in Serbia, the coverage of the generation attending college and university in the academic year

<sup>182</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-4--quality-education.html>

<sup>183</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20212054.pdf>

<sup>184</sup> <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PISA-2018-IZVE%C5%A0TAJ.pdf>

<sup>185</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN04010201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>186</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN04010205?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>187</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN04010209?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>188</sup> SORS <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Pdf/G20201073.pdf>

<sup>189</sup> SORS, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/HTML/G20211175.html>

<sup>190</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN04020201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>191</sup> SORS, [http://devinfo.stat.gov.rs/SerbiaProfileLauncher/files/profiles/sr/1/DI\\_Profil\\_Republika%20Srbija\\_EURSRB.pdf](http://devinfo.stat.gov.rs/SerbiaProfileLauncher/files/profiles/sr/1/DI_Profil_Republika%20Srbija_EURSRB.pdf)

2019/20 was about 54.7%. The number of students at colleges and universities decreased by 3.1% in the academic year 2019/20. The biggest problem is the mismatch of qualifications with the needs of the labour market, which is important for achieving the target **4.4. increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant technical and vocational skills**. Proportion of youth (aged 15-24) and adults (aged 15+) with information and communications technology (ICT) skills (UN indicator 4.4.1) amounted to 26.84% in 2019.

In order to achieve inclusive education, it is necessary to **eliminate all forms of discrimination in education (4.5)**. Parity indices at the primary school level (UN indicator 4.5.1) in 2019 were: girls/boys 0.96; bottom/top wealth 1.04; other/city 1.03. Parity indices at the level of lower secondary schools in 2019 were: girls/boys 0.99; bottom/top wealth 0.97; other/city 1. Parity indices at the level of higher secondary schools in 2019 were: girls/boys 0.99; bottom/top wealth 0.8; other/city 0.94. Literacy rate (UN Indicator 4.1.1.) in Serbia amounted to 99.5% in 2019, which is in direct link with the attainment of the target **4.6. ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy**. The problem was the high share of 15-year-old students who did not get the minimum fixed level of achievement on the PISA scale for three primary school subjects (UN indicator 4.6.1), specifically: mathematics 39.7% reading 37.7% and science 38.3% in 2018.

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

Economic growth based on knowledge and innovation is one of the pillars of the development of EU countries. Through **the Skills Agenda**, the Strategic Framework for Education and Training and through **Erasmus+** programme, Europe directly supports the improvement of education and training in its Member States. Erasmus + programmes are divided into several areas: individual mobility, cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices, support for policy reform and a special Jean Monnet programme.

In the previous period from 2001 to 2013, Serbia actively participated in the European Union's Tempus programme (before it was integrated into the Erasmus + programme). Institutions from Serbia attracted about 45 million euros from the Tempus programme and as such was the largest financial instrument for the modernization of higher education in Serbia and the inclusion of Serbia in current trends in the European Higher Education Area.

In April 2014, the Republic of Serbia accepted the invitation of the European Commission to participate in the **Open Method of Coordination (OMC)** in the field of education and training and thus accepted the rights and obligations in this area until the full accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union.

The fact that Serbia successfully opened and temporarily closed the negotiating chapter 26, which refers to education and culture, in February 2017, is of great importance for Serbia's accession to the European Union.

Serbia has been a full member of the Erasmus + programme since 2019 and has the status of a programme country, which means that institutions and organizations can apply for all types of projects, as well as EU member states.

Serbia also participates in a large number of regional initiatives that are relevant to the attainment

<sup>192</sup> Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) shows the percentage of children who are properly developing in at least <sup>3</sup> of the following <sup>4</sup> domains: Literacy-numeracy, physical development and socio-emotional development and learning/cognition.

<sup>193</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN04020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>194</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20212054.pdf>

<sup>195</sup> ICT skills determined on the basis of ability (skills) for the creation of electronic presentation on a computer.

<sup>196</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://sdg-tracker.org/quality-education>

<sup>197</sup> The parity index at different levels of education measures adjusted net attendance rates by sex (girls versus boys) and poverty quintiles (poorest versus richest), according to the ISCED <sup>2011</sup> classification, for ISCED <sup>1</sup> categories - primary school (1-4 grades within the national education system (NES), ISCED <sup>2</sup> - lower secondary school (equivalent to <sup>5-8</sup> grades of primary school within NES) and ISCED <sup>3</sup> - upper secondary school (equivalent to <sup>1-4</sup> grades of secondary school within NES).

<sup>198</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN040501?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>199</sup> <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/rs>

<sup>200</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN040601?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>201</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223>

<sup>202</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)

of the SDG 4. It is especially important to mention **the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL)** as well as the **Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERISEE)**. Cooperation with the **European Training Foundation (ETF)**, with its centre in Italy, is also important for reforms in Serbia, with the aim of developing education and training systems in the partner countries of the European Union.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

The most important strategic document of the Republic of Serbia for the attainment of the SDG 4 is **the Strategy for the Development of Education of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 with its accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023**, which was adopted in 2021. This umbrella strategic document covers all levels of education in Serbia as well as all aspects of the education system, including the inclusiveness of education, alignment with the needs of the economy, improving quality and coverage.

Target **4.1 free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education** is the focus of the Strategy for the Development of Education and its accompanying Action Plan. The priorities of the Strategy in this area are the development of new and improvement of existing qualification and achievement standards, improvement of teaching and learning programmes, support in strengthening the educational function, improvement of self-evaluation and external evaluation of institutions and systems and processes for monitoring student progress and new curricula.

A large number of activities envisaged by the Strategy for the Development of Education are aimed at achieving the target **4.2. access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education**. The Strategy defines measures and activities aimed at educating teaching staff, developing and strengthening the network of pedagogical assistants in preschool institutions, establishing a repository with materials for practice in preschool institutions and increasing the number of preschool institutions and their coverage.

Target **4.3 equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education** is recognised in its all aspects within the existing Strategy for the Development of Education. The vital for this goal is the development of a framework for monitoring and evaluating the quality of higher education and the application of the results obtained in the formulation of higher education policy, as well as other measures envisaged by the strategy: improving the financing system, strengthening human capacities and increasing the level of cooperation at the national and international level. Necessary conditions were ensured for the smooth functioning of the Qualifications Agency during 2019. The action plan in the field of secondary vocational education envisages the improvement of curricula, introduction of new profiles, involvement of employers in the process of developing this level of education and monitoring and evaluation of students.

Target **4.4. increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills** is extremely important for Serbia. Due to the mismatch of labour force qualifications with the needs of the labour market, the concept of dual and entrepreneurial education was introduced. According to this concept, high school and university students have intensive practical training in companies where they would later be employed.

One of the goals of the Strategy for the Development of Education is to support educational institutions in achieving openness, fairness and accessibility, which is in line with **4.5 eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations**. The Action Plan includes activities related to inclusive education: development of special curricula, training of teaching staff, educational campaigns, establishment of resource centres and development of a roadmap and optimal model of intersectoral funding.

<sup>203</sup> <https://erasmusplus.rs>

<sup>204</sup> <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SROVRS-2030-1.pdf>

The topic of education was also recognized within the **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025** (the accompanying AP has expired), where the priority is to ensure full inclusion of children and youth from the Roma community in quality pre-school, primary and secondary education, greater coverage of Roma men and women in the student population and support for the education of young people and adults who have not attended or have dropped out of school, with the introduction of effective and efficient mechanisms to combat discrimination and enjoy all minority conditions rights for Roma men and women in the education system.

Affirmative measures for enrolment in faculties still exist in the form of place norms that are kept for certain groups of students in each programme. For the use of the Programme of affirmative measures of enrolment in higher education institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia, 120 young Roma men and women (out of a total of 170 registered) were enrolled in the academic year 2019/2020 .

The Strategy for the Development of Education also recognizes insufficient functional, mathematical and scientific literacy (as well as information and cultural and arts literacy) among primary school students in Serbia as a problem. However, specific activities for the attainment of the target **4.6 ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy are not defined in the Action Plan**. One of the priorities of the above-mentioned Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 is to provide effective and efficient mechanisms for prevention of early school dropout (especially girls) from the Roma community at the transition from the fourth to the fifth grade and at the transition from primary to secondary education, as well as the capacities of educational institutions for their implementation.

Target **4.7 to improve knowledge and skills for sustainable development** is covered by the existing Strategy for the Development of Education, which recognizes the importance of improving environmental education for the needs of sustainable development. The Action Plan defines activities for the attainment of this goal (accreditation of trainings related to sustainable development, training of teaching staff on sustainable development, development and implementation of trainings to strengthen students' capacity to carry out activities related to sustainable development, collective well-being and democratic culture). Additional activities that are carried out are not systematic, but are rather reduced to the activities of individual schools, often with donor support. During the academic year 2019/20 high school students of I and II grade had the opportunity to study the elective programme Education for Sustainable Development. In the next two academic years, within the offer for III and IV grade, with two hours a week, a number of new elective programmes will be introduced into the educational practice, including Education for Sustainable Development .

Strengthening the educational function of schools at all levels of education with the aim of preventing violence is a priority in the Education Strategy, which is important for the attainment of **4.a to build and improve educational facilities (adapted to people with disabilities, safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments)**. Strategy for the Development of Education also recognizes the importance of improving the educational infrastructure for the quality of education and the physical accessibility of the space in which the educational process takes place. Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Re-

<sup>205</sup> [https://ljudskaprava.gov.rs/sites/default/files/dokument\\_file/strategija\\_za\\_socijalno\\_ukljucivanje\\_roma\\_i\\_romkinja\\_2016\\_2025.pdf](https://ljudskaprava.gov.rs/sites/default/files/dokument_file/strategija_za_socijalno_ukljucivanje_roma_i_romkinja_2016_2025.pdf)

<sup>206</sup> <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Izvestaj-o-Realizaciji-Akcionog-Plana-za-Sprovođenje-Strategije-Razvoja-Obrazovanja-u-Srbiji-do-2020.-godine-za-2019.-godinu.pdf>

<sup>207</sup> <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Izvestaj-o-Realizaciji-Akcionog-Plana-za-Sprovođenje-Strategije-Razvoja-Obrazovanja-u-Srbiji-do-2020.-godine-za-2019.-godinu.pdf>

public of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024 was adopted along with its accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2022 in 2020. One of the measures of this Strategy is to ensure full accessibility of facilities, public areas, information, services and products to persons with disabilities, in order to make the entire environment equally accessible to persons with disabilities. The Strategy states, in the analysis of the problem, that states should identify obstacles and barriers in the accessibility of facilities (including schools), but when the measure for ensuring full accessibility of public facilities is mentioned, special accessibility for educational facilities is not mentioned (primary and secondary schools, faculties).



## GOAL 8: Decent work and economic growth

### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

At the global level, in the past 25 years, poverty has been significantly reduced and the share of the middle classes in the employed population increased. Yet, in recent years, decelerated economic growth, a rise in inequality and unemployment growth have been observed. In response to this problem, SDG 8 promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth by enhancing productivity and supporting technological innovations and entrepreneurship. Promoting entrepreneurship and creating new jobs significantly contribute to achieving sustainable development.

After the outbreak of the global economic crisis, Serbia was characterized by slower economic growth compared to the surrounding countries. Fiscal consolidation measures and improved business conditions have contributed to the gradual recovery of the economy since 2015. Real GDP growth per capita (UN indicator 8.1.1.) in Serbia for the period from 2010 to 2019 averaged 2.5%, while in 2020 it was 0.9%.

Related to the target **8.1 sustain per capita economic growth**, the fiscal consolidation programme has contributed towards balancing public finances and achieving economic growth. The average GDP growth rate was 2.9% in the period from 2015 to 2018, and 4.2% in 2019. As a consequence of the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, economic activity fell by 0.9% in 2020 (5.2% average decline of CEE countries). The fiscal deficit in Serbia was 8.1% of GDP in 2020, which was higher than the average of CEE countries (7.5% of GDP). The higher level of borrowing in order to obtain additional financial resources contributed to the growth of public debt to the level of 57.8% in 2020.

Serbia recorded industrial production growth of 0.4% in 2020, primarily due to the recovery of the processing industry, which attracted 28% of foreign direct investment in 2020 and thus diversified production areas. However, the structure of production was still dominated by products with lower added value and lower degree of finalization. According to the indicator of sophistication of the production process, Serbia ranked 72nd out of 138 countries, while the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (UN indicator 8.2.1) was 1.3% in 2019 which is related to **8.2 achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation**. At the same time, investments in science and innovation in Serbia were relatively low (0.91% of GDP in 2020) and came mainly from the public sector (88.1%). The weak link between the science and the economy was reflected in the low number of jointly published papers and the small number of registered patents.

The services sector, which accounted for about 50% of Serbia's GDP, was growing steadily with an

<sup>208</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/44/1/reg>

<sup>209</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-8-decent-work-and-economic-growth.html>

<sup>210</sup> SDG, SORS <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN08010101?caller=SDGUN&languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>211</sup> <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci/>

<sup>212</sup> <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci/>

<sup>213</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2021/April>

<sup>214</sup> <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci/>

<sup>215</sup> <http://www.fiskalniasvet.rs/latinica/ocene-i-misljenja.php>

<sup>216</sup> <http://www.javnidug.gov.rs/>

<sup>217</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211025.pdf>

<sup>218</sup> [https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/NBS\\_site/documents/statistika/ino\\_ekonomski\\_odnosi/platni\\_bilans/fdi\\_delatnosti\\_2010\\_2020.xls](https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/NBS_site/documents/statistika/ino_ekonomski_odnosi/platni_bilans/fdi_delatnosti_2010_2020.xls)

increase in the trade surplus in 2020 . Growth was influenced by the development of the ICT sector, although there were also significant services that did not require special skills and knowledge. Knowledge-based services accounted for only 25.5% of GDP in 2020 .

As per target **8.3 promote job creation and entrepreneurship**, a decline in informal employment was observed. The share of informal employment in non-agricultural activities (UN 8.3.1) was 6.8% in 2020(8.5% men and 4.7% women) . Micro, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs played an important role in the Serbian economy, making up 99.8% of the total number of companies and employing 30.3% of the active workforce in 2020 . The SME sector participated with 32.2% in the formation of GDP in 2020 . A barrier to the further development of this sector was limited access to funding sources.

Additional efforts are needed **to increase resource efficiency in consumption and production (8.4)**. Domestic material consumption (UN indicator 8.4.2) was 126,625 tons in 2019 , while resource productivity was 39.2 RSD/kg in 2019 .

As per the attainment of the target **8.5 full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men and equal pay for work of equal value**, there were positive trends in the labour market in Serbia. Employment in 2020 increased by 0.1 percentage points and amounted to 49.1%, while the unemployment rate (UN indicator 8.5.2.) was at the lowest level in the last couple of years and amounted to 9% in 2020. Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there were positive trends in the labour market as measured by employment growth at 48.3% and maintaining unemployment at 11.1% in the second quarter of 2021 (from 2021, a new methodology has been used to calculate labour market indicators). However, there is still the problem of long-term unemployment, as well as the disproportionately high number of young and socially vulnerable groups among the unemployed. The position of women was still unfavourable (they made up 44.4% of employees, although they made up 51.8% of the total population), although there was a positive trend in reducing the gap between men and women, both in the unemployment rate (from 1.3 pp. in 2019 to 0.7 pp. in 2020), as well as the employment rate (decreased from 14.7 pp in 2019 to 14.5 pp in 2020) . Differences in wages between men and women remained. The average hourly wage for employed (UN indicator 8.5.1) men was higher by 9.7% (37.4 RSD) compared to employed women in 2018. The most pronounced were differences between men and women in the age group of 40-49 years and for the profession of engineers, professional associates and technicians.

Young people aged 15-24 were at a significant disadvantage with an unemployment rate of 26.6% in 2020. (compared to 16.8% in the EU-27 ). After a period of decline, the youth unemployment rate began to rise rapidly starting in 2008 and reached 59.9% in 2011, after which a decline was observed. The youth unemployment rate (15-24) was 22.2% in Q2 2021 (17.4% in the EU-27 in Q2 2021), which was almost twice the general unemployment rate.

Of great importance for attaining the target **8.6 reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training** was the fact that the proportion of young people (15-24) not in education, employment or training (UN indicator 8.6.1.) was as much as 15.9% of the total youth in 2020 Observed by sex, 14.8% of women and 17% of men aged 15-24 were not in education, employment or training.

<sup>219</sup> [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf)

<sup>220</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer30/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=SDG\\_B821\\_NOC\\_RT\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer30/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=SDG_B821_NOC_RT_A)

<sup>221</sup> <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/100109?languageCode=sr-Latn>

<sup>222</sup> <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/0902010301?languageCode=sr-Latn>

<sup>223</sup> [https://nbs.rs/export/sites/NBS\\_site/documents/statistika/ino\\_ekonomski\\_odnosi/platni\\_bilans/bilans\\_usluga\\_2007\\_2019.xlsx](https://nbs.rs/export/sites/NBS_site/documents/statistika/ino_ekonomski_odnosi/platni_bilans/bilans_usluga_2007_2019.xlsx)

<sup>224</sup> Sectors: J - Information and communication, K - Financial and insurance activities, M - Professional, scientific and technical activities, O - State administration and defence; compulsory social security, P - Education, Q - Health and social work, R - Arts; entertainment and recreation<sup>225</sup> <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/0902010301?languageCode=sr-Latn> , [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Knowledge-intensive\\_services\\_\(KIS\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Knowledge-intensive_services_(KIS))

<sup>226</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN080301?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>227</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G202110116.pdf> , <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G202110117.pdf> , <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215671.pdf>

<sup>228</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G202110116.pdf> , <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G202110117.pdf> , <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Html/G20211266.html>

<sup>229</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN08040201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>230</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN08040202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>231</sup> SORS, Анкета о радној снази <sup>2020</sup>, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215671.pdf>

<sup>232</sup> SORS, Анкета о радној снази, Q<sup>2</sup> 2021, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211239.pdf>

It is necessary **to eradicate human trafficking and forced labour, especially child labour (8.7)**. In Serbia, child labour (UN indicator 8.7.1) accounted for 9.5% of the population aged 5-17 in 2019. Observed by structure, child labour in Serbia was more present in children of mothers without education or lower education, in children aged 5-11 and in poorer families.

Protection of **labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments (8.8)** is regulated by the Labour Law of the Republic of Serbia. In Serbia, there were 10,295 cases of injuries at work, of which fatal and severe injuries accounted for 16.2% in 2020. The largest number of injuries was recorded in the manufacturing industry (17.5%).

The tourism sector in Serbia, as well as globally, is in decline due to the consequences attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic, which affects the achievement of **target 8.9** (sustainable tourism). The number of tourist arrivals in 2020 decreased by 50.7% (foreign tourists decreased by 75.9%), and the number of overnight stays decreased by 38.4% (foreign tourists decreased by 68.5%) compared to the previous year. The proportion of accommodation and food services (UN indicator 8.9.1) in GDP was 1.1% in 2020.

Progress has been made in **accessing banking, insurance and financial services (8.10)**. The number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults (in%) (UN indicator 8.10.1a) was 27.67 in 2020 (27.84 in 2019), and the number of automated ATMs (ATM indicator 8.10.1b) recorded a steady growth and was at 53.58 in 2020. (51.53 in 2019).

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

One of the priorities of the new strategic agenda of the EU for the period from 2019 to 2024 is to respond to global challenges by promoting sustainable development, which is a direct response of the European Union to the Sustainable Development Goal 8. This Goal is deeply embedded in the ten priorities of the "Strategic Agenda of the Union in the Times of Change" adopted by the European Council, such as support for jobs, growth and investment (priority 1), a stronger and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base (priority 4), as well as a stronger and fairer economic and monetary union - with a focus on social policies and corporate social responsibility (priority 5).

These EU principles are reflected in the specific programmes and investments that are being implemented. **The Investment Plan for Europe** plans to, in the period from 2021 to 2027, mobilize more than 372 billion euros for investments in four key areas: sustainable infrastructure (energy, transport, water, environment, culture, digital infrastructure), research, innovation and digitalisation (innovation and business process research, technology transfer and business digitisation), small and medium-sized enterprises (access to finance and additional support for small and medium-sized enterprises) and social protection and skills (microfinance, social entrepreneurship, education, gender equality, health, inclusion). With projects in these areas, the EU seeks to encourage job creation, support the growth of production and consumption while mitigating the effects of climate change. European framework for science and innovation "Horizon" for the period from 2021 to 2027 is largely focused on greater competitiveness of the European economy through the development and application of new technologies.

These EU principles are also transferred through the EU accession process to the candidate countries, such as the Republic of Serbia. Within a large number of negotiating chapters, the Republic of Serbia is harmonizing its regulations with EU principles that are key to sustainable econom-

<sup>233</sup> SORS, Labour Force Survey, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215671.pdf>

<sup>234</sup> SORS, SDG <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN08050101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>235</sup> SORS, Labour Force Survey, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215671.pdf>

<sup>236</sup> Eurostat, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/LFSA\\_URGAN\\_custom\\_1356530/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/LFSA_URGAN_custom_1356530/default/table?lang=en)

<sup>237</sup> РЗС, Анкета о радној снази, Q2 2021, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211239.pdf>

<sup>238</sup> Eurostat, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/LFSQ\\_URGAN\\_custom\\_1356541/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/LFSQ_URGAN_custom_1356541/default/table?lang=en)

<sup>239</sup> SORS, SDG <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN080601?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>240</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN08070101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>241</sup> МРЗБСП, Извештај о раду 2020, <https://www.minrzs.gov.rs/sites/default/files/2021-03/03%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%88%20%D0%BE%20%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B4%D1%83%20%D0%A3%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B5%20%D0%B7%D0%B0%20%D0%B1%D0%B7%D1%80%20%D0%B7%D0%B0%202020.020>

<sup>242</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211024.pdf>

<sup>243</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211024.pdf>

<sup>243</sup> <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/0902010301?languageCode=sr-Latn>

ic growth. These are primarily Chapters 20 (Enterprise and Industrial Policy), **17** (Economic and Monetary Policy) and **19** (Social Policy and Employment) in the Cluster of Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth. Chapters **25** (Science and Research) and **26** (Education and Culture) in the Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth Cluster, as well as Chapters **9** (Financial Services) but **1** (Free Movement of Goods), **4** (Free Movement of Capital), **2** (freedom of movement of workers) in the internal market cluster are also of great importance.

In addition to harmonizing regulations, the Republic of Serbia, as a candidate country for EU membership, participates in three European Union programmes that are extremely important for topics covered by SDG 8. Since 2008, Serbia has been participating in **the European Framework Programmes for Science, Research and Innovation**, while since 2015, Serbian companies have also been able to participate in the **EU COSME** programme to support the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises. Another key programme in which Serbia participates is EaSI - EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation.

The topic of sustainable economic growth is also part of important regional initiatives in which the Republic of Serbia participates. Achieving sustainable growth and regional contribution to the achievement of all SDGs is an integral part of **the Southeast Europe Development Strategy until 2030**. Within the **Berlin Process**, great focus has been placed on economic and social issues. All macro-regional strategies and processes in which Serbia takes part, such as the Danube Strategy, place great emphasis on the role of regional cooperation towards achieving sustainable economic growth.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

Many strategies of the Republic of Serbia recognize the importance of sectoral public policies for achieving the overall goal of long-term and sustainable economic growth. SDG 8 is deeply linked to the areas of education, employment, rule of law, institution building, science and innovations and many other segments that are the subject of other sustainable development goals.

Target **8.1 sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances** is reflected in a large number of strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia. **Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with the Projections for 2023 and 2024** and **the Economic Reform Programme for the period 2021-2023** are two key documents to attain the sustainable economic growth.

Fiscal Policy will primarily depend upon the suppression of the pandemic and its end. The Fiscal Strategy envisages a gradual balancing and stabilization of public finances in order to reduce the share of public debt in GDP and create the basis for stable economic growth. The medium-term fiscal framework envisages a moderate abandonment of expansionary fiscal policy. This implies balancing public finances with continuous implementation of development and social programmes.

The Economic Reform Programme prioritizes structural reforms that are already contained in sectoral strategies and enables centralized monitoring of their implementation, but also measuring their social impact and impact on competitiveness. Structural reforms in the 2021-2023 ERP cover the following areas: energy and transport market reform; agriculture, industry and services; business environment and the fight against the grey economy; research, development and innovation and digital transformation; reforms in the field of European integration; education and skills; employment and labour market; social protection and inclusion, including health care.

### **Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 (“The Power of Knowledge”) and the accompanying AP for the period**

<sup>244</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN08100101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>245</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN08100102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>246</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/39914/a-new-strategic-agenda-2019-2024.pdf>

<sup>247</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/143477.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/143477.pdf)

<sup>248</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0523&from=EN>

<sup>249</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research\\_and\\_innovation/strategy\\_on\\_research\\_and\\_innovation/documents/ec\\_rtd\\_implementation-strategy\\_he.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/documents/ec_rtd_implementation-strategy_he.pdf)

<sup>250</sup> <https://www.rcc.int/docs/581/south-east-europe-strategy-2030>

from 2021 to 2023 only partially covers the elements defined under the target **8.2 achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation (through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors)**. The basis of this Strategy is to improve the quality and efficiency of science, technological development and innovation through the development of excellence and relevance of scientific research, as well as strengthening the connection between science, economy and society. The focus is on how the public research system in Serbia can be improved and how this sector can contribute to economic growth through better connections with the economy. Focusing research on societal challenges and priorities and strengthening international cooperation further encourages economic growth.

The strategic framework for improving the general technological level of industry in Serbia has been further improved within **the Smart Specialisation Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2027 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2022 and the Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023**. The Smart Specialisation Strategy focuses on creating innovation, i.e. that the smart and creative Republic of Serbia be highly competitive in the world and recognized for innovations based on knowledge, partnerships from the domestic ecosystem and creativity of individuals in the following priority areas: (1) Sustainable high-technological food production of high added value for the future, (2) Sophisticated software solutions for the global market and (3) Cross-sectoral industrial innovations. Of the seven strategic areas of intervention under the Industrial Policy Strategy, two relate to digital transformation and innovation.

The Strategy for Supporting the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness for the period from 2015 to 2020 with the accompanying Action Plan was a key strategic document for achieving the target **8.3 promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services**. In the period after 2020, no policy document that would continue the policy of encouraging the development of the SME sector was drafted. The following strategic documents contribute towards the development of entrepreneurship: **Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023** through mechanisms for encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship, **Free Zone Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2022 with the accompanying AP for the period from 2018 to 2022** by strengthening production capacities and encouraging exports within free zones, contribute to the growth of production, employment and the level of entrepreneurial activity. Additional contribution to the improvement of the business environment is provided by measures and activities defined within **the Programme for Improving the Position of the Republic of Serbia on the Doing Business List of the World Bank for the period from 2020 to 2023 with the AP for the period from 2020 to 2023**. National Programme for the Suppression of the Grey Economy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 is under development.

Creative industries are extremely present in Serbia and are growing steadily. The main priorities to be supported by the **Smart Specialisation Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2027 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2022** in the area of the Creative industries are: (1) Creative audiovisual production, (2) Video games and interactive media, (3) Smart packaging.

The development of creative industries is also stated in the **Proposal of Strategy for Cultural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2029** (upon its constitution, new Parliament has returned the Strategy to the Government under the regular procedure), within its Special Objective 4. Improving international cooperation and the process of European integration in the field of culture aims at the active presence of culture and art of the Republic of Serbia abroad and intensive international representation of contemporary art and creative indus-

<sup>251</sup> [https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/orj73G\\_60ec2244699c1.pdf](https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/orj73G_60ec2244699c1.pdf)

<sup>252</sup> [https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/ID63iX\\_60f11fc3470a8.pdf](https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/ID63iX_60f11fc3470a8.pdf)

<sup>253</sup> <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Predlog-Strategije-naucnog-i-tehnoloskog-razvoja-java-rasprava.pdf>

<sup>254</sup> <https://pametnaspecijalizacija.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/>

<sup>255</sup> <https://privreda.gov.rs/propisi/strategija-industrijske-politike-republike-srbije-od-2021-do-2030-godine/>

tries, as well as cultural heritage. Also, measure 1.3 refers to the creation of a favourable environment for the development and advancement of contemporary creativity and creative industries.

**Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023**, within the circular economy as one of the strategic areas of intervention within which goals and measures are defined, includes environmental protection which will contribute to achieving the target 8.4 improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. The Waste Management Programme and the Cleaner Production Programme (which are under development) will create better conditions for environmental conservation.

A large number of activities aimed at achieving the target **8.5 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value** is defined under **the Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026** and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023. The priorities of this Strategy are to increase the level of inter-sectoral cooperation, improve the position of the unemployed and strengthen the institutional framework. The Strategy also defines systemic preconditions for improving the position of women in the labour market by encouraging women's entrepreneurship, exercising rights from the insurance system in low-skilled jobs, inclusion in additional education and training, granting subsidies for self-employment, applying the principle of gender responsive budgeting and integrating women from underdeveloped and devastated areas. Additional conditions for achieving target 8.5 will be provided by improving the regulatory framework for social entrepreneurship, which is recognized as one of the measures under this Strategy. The adopted Law on Gender Equality will further contribute to the improvement of the position of women.

Target 8.6 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training is one of the main priorities of the National Youth Strategy for the period from 2015 to 2025 (accompanying AP has expired). Employability and employment of young people, as well as the quality and opportunities for acquiring qualifications and developing competencies and innovations of young people are among nine strategic goals of this document. Youth employment is also recognized as a priority within the Employment Strategy. The initiatives launched under **the Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030** with the Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023 which, among other things, aims to improve the quality and access to all levels of education, are extremely important. They also tend to make connection with the needs of employers in Serbia. The improved position of young people on the labour market is an integral part of the **Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023**.

Problems of human trafficking, as one of the segments of the target **8.7 take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking are contained in the Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims 2017-2022**(accompanying AP has expired). This Strategy has contributed to the fight against trafficking in human beings through the creation of conditions for the improvement of the system of prevention, assistance and protection of victims.

There is a developed strategic framework in response to the target **8.8 protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers**. This topic is covered under **the Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023 and Occupational Safety and Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2022 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2018 to 2022**. The vision of the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy

<sup>256</sup> [https://privreda.gov.rs/sites/default/files/documents/2021\\_08/Akcioni-Plan-2021-2023-Industrijska-Politika.pdf](https://privreda.gov.rs/sites/default/files/documents/2021_08/Akcioni-Plan-2021-2023-Industrijska-Politika.pdf)

<sup>257</sup> <http://www.privreda.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Strategija-mala-i-srednja-preduzeca.pdf>

<sup>258</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/48/1/reg>

<sup>259</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2020/89/1/reg>

<sup>260</sup> <https://mfim.gov.rs/propisi/nacionalni-program-za-suzbijanje-sive-ekonomije-u-srbiji-za-period-od-2021-do-2025-godine>

<sup>261</sup> [http://www.nsz.gov.rs/live/digitalAssets/15/15855\\_strategija\\_zaposlavanja\\_u\\_rs\\_2021-2026.pdf](http://www.nsz.gov.rs/live/digitalAssets/15/15855_strategija_zaposlavanja_u_rs_2021-2026.pdf)

represents a continuous work on improving the field of occupational safety and health through, further harmonization of regulations with EU regulations, as well as through joint work of employers, employees, trade unions and the state to improve and raise awareness in this area, improving skills, i.e. establishing a culture of work and creating preconditions for well-being at work and quality of life and health at work. The vision is focused on period beyond the time frame for the implementation of this Strategy, for in such a way safe and healthy working conditions are achieved for all employees in the Republic of Serbia.

The first objective of **the Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 with the accompanying AP for the period from 2016 to 2025** is sustainable economic, ecological and social development of the tourism in the Republic of Serbia. The principle of sustainable tourism is permeated through all the activities proposed under the Strategy and thereby this Strategy provides a good framework to attain the target 8.9 devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism.

Target **8.10 strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all** is not covered in detail by the existing strategic framework, although there are various programmes of the National Bank of Serbia and the Ministry of Economy to increase SME financial literacy or improve access to banking services. The harmonization of operations of domestic financial institutions is mostly carried out through the monetary policy of the NBS. One of the key steps that will contribute to the achievement of this target in the future will be the establishment of the institutional and legal framework for microfinance that is expected in the coming period.



## GOAL 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

Technological progress and innovation are the basis for sustainable economic development. Access to quality infrastructure and information and communication technologies enables more people to participate in the knowledge-based economy, provides them with access to education and encourages entrepreneurship. However, globally, 4 billion people still do not have access to the Internet. In response to this problem, the sustainable development goal (SDG) 9 promotes building of resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fosters innovation. Technological progress in synergy with the improvement of transport and the use of renewable energy sources contributes to the achievement of this goal.

In the segment of **quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure** to which the target **9.1 refers**, the situation in Serbia differs significantly in relation to the type of infrastructure. The Covid-19 pandemic was largely reflected in the reduction of all types of passenger and freight traffic. In the transport segment, the road network in Serbia has been significantly built and reconstructed. In addition to the construction of key sections on Corridors X and XI, the network of local roads is continuously improving, which contributes to the growth of freight and passenger transport (3.1 billion passenger km and 7.7 billion tonne-kilometres in 2020). – UN indicators 9.1.2a and 9.1.2.b. There are a number of regulatory barriers at border crossings that adversely affect trade by increasing costs and creating unreliability in the transport of goods. Obsolete railway network restricts passenger and freight rail traffic (157 million passenger km and 2.7 billion tonne km in 2020) - UN indicators 9.1.2.a and 9.1.2.b. Passenger and freight traffic by rail in Serbia is lower than in all countries in the region. One of the main reasons is the obsolescence of the railway network (low load capacity with limited maximum speed in railway traffic). Reconstruction of the existing railway network (especially the Belgrade-Budapest railway) has limited the volume of railway traffic in 2020. Existing infrastructure capacities in river transport limit the speed of tran-

<sup>262</sup> <https://www.mos.gov.rs/public/documents/upload/sport/inspekcija/Nacionalna%20strategija%20za%20mlade%20-%20SR.pdf>

<sup>263</sup> [http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SROVRS\\_2030\\_1.pdf](http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SROVRS_2030_1.pdf)

<sup>264</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/96/1/reg>

<sup>265</sup> <https://mtt.gov.rs/download/3/strategija.pdf>

shipment in ports and affect the competitiveness of goods on the market. Gradual improvement of river infrastructure contributed to the growth of freight transport on inland waterways by 10.2% in 2020 . In the area of aviation, the international airports “Nikola Tesla” in Belgrade, “Konstantin Veliki” /Constantine the Great/ in Niš and “Morava” near Kraljevo are operational. At the airport “Nikola Tesla” in Belgrade, the number of passengers decreased by 69.1%, the number of commercial flights decreased by 52.2%, and the total amount of transported goods decreased by 17.2% in 2020 . The total of 1,124 million passenger km and 15.7 billion net tonne km were achieved in 2020 .

The reliability and adaptability of infrastructure in Serbia is adversely affected by the lack of intelligent transport systems and combined/intermodal transport. Infrastructure in the energy sector is also outdated (production capacity with an average age of over 30) leading to unreliable power supply, loss in electricity generation, and disproportionately high environmental impact. There is a line transport system of natural gas with only two entrances (from Hungary and Bulgaria) to the country, which contributed to the growth of energy dependence (net import dependence of energy was 35.6% in 2019) .

Serbia has been recording the growth of the industry sector in recent years, which is important for achieving the target **9.2 inclusive and sustainable industrialization**. The recovery of the industrial sector was contributed by the manufacturing industry, which attracted as much as 28% of foreign direct investment in 2020 and thus diversified production areas. Products with lower added value and the degree of finalization still dominated the production structure. Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP (UN indicator 9.2.1a) was declining and amounted to 13.3% in 2020 , while manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita (UN indicator 9.2.1b) was increasing and amounted to 929 US dollars in 2020 . Employment in the manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (UN indicator 9.2.2) was on the rise and amounted to 18.7% (growth of 0.04 percentage points) in 2020 .

Target **9.3 refers to the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services and their integration into value chains and markets**. Small and medium enterprises in Serbia participate with 45.5% in the import of goods in Serbia and with only 37.9% in the export of goods in 2018, which speaks of insufficient international competitiveness of this sector. SME demand for financial services was significant (estimated at 13.9% of GDP by the European Investment Bank ). In Serbia, 48.9% of SMEs borrowed from banks in 2019 (UN indicator 9.3.2) . The scope of funding sources for innovative and start-up companies in the form of venture capital funds and other instruments needs to be expanded.

To attain the target **9.4 upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable**, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and sound technologies, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are of great importance in relation to GDP (UN indicator 9.4.1.b), which in Serbia was twice the average of countries European Union (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of GDP was 0.37 kg / \$ in 2018) . CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the fuel combustion process (UN indicator 9.4.1.a) amounted to 44.79 million tons in 2018 (in the processing industry it amounted to 3.78 million tons in 2018) . CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of value added in the field of manufacturing (UN indicator 9.4.1.c) was 0.59 kg/\$ in 2018 .

As already mentioned within the target 8.2, Serbia invests far less in science and research (UN indicator 9.5.1) than EU countries, which is an unfavourable starting point for achieving the target **9.5 science, technology and innovation in the service of sustainable industrial development**. Total investment in research and development amounted to 0.91% of GDP in 2020 . Although the number of researchers (UN indicator 9.5.2) in Serbia was on rise in the past ten years (2,405 researchers per million inhabitants in 2020) . , it is still lower than the EU average (3,994 researchers per million inhabitants in 2018 ) . The participation of the private sector in the field of science is low, considering the level of investments, the number of researchers and the volume of research conducted within companies.

<sup>266</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211166.pdf>

<sup>267</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211166.pdf>

<sup>268</sup> <https://www.aul.gov.rs/na-rekama-u-srbiji-pretovareno-15-miliona-tona-tereta>

<sup>269</sup> [https://beg.aero/sites/belgrade/files/pdf/beg\\_jzvestaj\\_o\\_aktivnostima\\_2020.pdf](https://beg.aero/sites/belgrade/files/pdf/beg_jzvestaj_o_aktivnostima_2020.pdf)

<sup>270</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211166.pdf>

Target **9.c.** refers to the **access to information and communications technology**. Although access to computers and the Internet is widespread in companies, Serbia lags behind European countries in access to broadband Internet (UN indicator 9.c.1). the total of 81% of households had access to broadband in 2020, compared to 89% in the EU-27 . The proportion of the population covered by mobile network was high in Serbia and amounted to 99.19% for the 2G network, 98.94% for the 3G network and 98.1% for the 4G network in 2020 . Serbia was ranked worse than most European countries according to the Network Readiness Index (NRI) , ranking 52nd out of 134 countries in 2020, which indicated a limited opportunity to include and strengthen the ICT sector .

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

European policies and instruments are largely in line with SDG 9. **The Investment Plan for Europe**, described in SDG 8, covers strategic investments in the areas of infrastructure, science, innovation and financial instruments to support innovative companies.

The European Framework for Science and Innovation **“Horizon 2021-2027”**, in which the Republic of Serbia has the right to participate on an equal footing with member states, generates significant investments in science and new technologies and largely focuses scientific research on developing new technologies and solving major societal challenges.

Sustainable industrialisation is also the subject of numerous negotiation chapters through which the Republic of Serbia harmonizes its regulations with EU principles. These are primarily Chapters **14** (Transport Policy), **15** (Energy) and **21** (Trans-European Networks) belonging to the Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity cluster, **20** (Entrepreneurship and industrial policy), **25** (Science and research) and **10** (Information society and media) within the cluster competitiveness and inclusive growth and **9** (Financial services) in the cluster internal market.

Regarding the development of transport infrastructure at **the EU level, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy** has been adopted . This Strategy identifies ten key areas in which it is necessary to take appropriate action in order to develop a transport system based on the principles of sustainability, resilience, innovation and digitalization.

The Energy Community of Southeast Europe, of which the Republic of Serbia is a member and which defines regional priorities in this sector, is extremely important for the development of energy infrastructure.

In the transport sector, the participation of the Republic of Serbia in the South East Europe Transport Observatory, based in Belgrade, is of great importance. By signing the agreement in Trieste, this Observatory has grown into the Transport Community of the region since 2019.

Regional priorities in the field of transport and energy are also part of **the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans in 2018** , where the EU has also increased technical assistance for the introduction of broadband networks in the region.

<sup>271</sup> [http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/2020\\_12/SG\\_156\\_2020\\_009.htm](http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/2020_12/SG_156_2020_009.htm)

<sup>272</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN09020102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>273</sup> [https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/NBS\\_site/documents/statistika/ino\\_ekonomski\\_odnosi/platni\\_bilans/fdi\\_delatnosti\\_2010\\_2020.xls](https://www.nbs.rs/export/sites/NBS_site/documents/statistika/ino_ekonomski_odnosi/platni_bilans/fdi_delatnosti_2010_2020.xls)

<sup>274</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN09020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>275</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215671.pdf>

<sup>276</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/pdf/G20206006.pdf> , <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Xls/G20201195.xlsx>

<sup>277</sup> [http://www.eib.org/attachments/efs/assessment\\_of\\_financing\\_needs\\_of\\_smes\\_serbia\\_en.pdf](http://www.eib.org/attachments/efs/assessment_of_financing_needs_of_smes_serbia_en.pdf)

<sup>278</sup> <https://www.enterprisesurveys.org/content/dam/enterprisesurveys/documents/country/Serbia-2019.pdf>

<sup>279</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN09040102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>280</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN09040101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>281</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN09040103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>282</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN09050101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>283</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN09050201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>284</sup> World Bank, [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.SCIE.RD.P?name\\_desc=false&locations=EU](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.SCIE.RD.P?name_desc=false&locations=EU)

<sup>285</sup> Eurostat, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tin00073/default/table?lang=en>

<sup>286</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN090801?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>287</sup> The Network Readiness Index (NRI) measures a country's ability to take advantage of the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies (ICT). It consists of three components: ICT environment, readiness of key actors to use ICT and use of ICT.

<sup>288</sup> <https://networkreadinessindex.org/countries/serbia/>

<sup>289</sup> [https://platformduurzamebiobrandstoffen.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021\\_EC\\_mobility-strategy-and-action-plan\\_in-lay-out.pdf](https://platformduurzamebiobrandstoffen.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021_EC_mobility-strategy-and-action-plan_in-lay-out.pdf)

In the field of improving the approach to ICT, there are no significant regional or European processes in which the Republic of Serbia participates. The Regional Cooperation Council has started activities to improve regional cooperation in this area. The Berlin Process recognizes this issue as important, but there are still no concrete programmes for either investment or improvement of regional cooperation.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

In addition to **the Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023**, a large number of other strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia are related to the elements necessary for achieving SDG 9. There is a strong link between this Goal, which is primarily related to sustainable industrialisation, with the areas of sustainable economic growth, science and innovation, environmental protection, sustainable resource management and other topics.

To achieve the target **9.1 develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure**, sectoral strategies in the field of transport and energy are also important. The preparation of the new National Transport Strategy for the period from 2022 to 2030 is underway. It will include all modalities of transport. At this point of time, **the National Programme for Public Rail Infrastructure in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2017 to 2021** (no accompanying AP) and **the Strategy for Development of Water Transport from 2015 to 2025** (accompanying AP has expired), serve as a strategic basis for the development of the transport infrastructure in Serbia.

The strategic framework document in the area of energy is **the Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025, with projections until 2030**. A fundamental principle of the Strategy is sustainable energy with focus on enhancing energy efficiency, increasing the share of energy from renewable sources, improving environmental protection in all areas of energy and providing prerequisites for more dynamic investment in energy. Conditions, manner, dynamics and measures for the implementation of the Energy Strategy are determined **by the Programme for the Implementation of the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025 with projections until 2030, for the period from 2017 to 2023**. The Mineral Resources Management Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 additionally contributes to the improvement of the situation in the field of energy and sustainable use of natural resources.

As per target **9.2 inclusive and sustainable industrialization, the Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023** emphasizes that a **dynamic** (sufficient volume), **smart** (based on knowledge and innovation), **sustainable** (takes into account resource availability and efficiency of use) and **inclusive** (striving for social cohesion) growth is the number one priority for industrial policy of the Republic of Serbia. Accordingly, all goals, measures and activities of industrial policy will be evaluated from the perspective of contributing to raising industrial competitiveness and general economic growth in the Republic of Serbia. The competitive industry of the Republic of Serbia makes a significant contribution to high sustainable economic growth, measured by the growth rate of national GDP and better quality of life of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, measured by GDP per capita.

Programmes for the integration of SMEs into value chains, as well as other measures of financial support, are implemented by the Development Agency of Serbia and other state institutions. In addition they are important for achieving the target **9.3 increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services and their integration into value chains and markets** **The Industrial Policy Strategy of the**

<sup>290</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_18\\_4242](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_18_4242)

<sup>291</sup> [http://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/Nacionalni%20program%20zel%20infrastruktura%20SRBIJE%202017-2021%2020\\_9\\_2016.doc](http://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/Nacionalni%20program%20zel%20infrastruktura%20SRBIJE%202017-2021%2020_9_2016.doc)

<sup>292</sup> <http://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/dokumenti/strategija-razvoja-vodnog-saobratshaja-republike-srbije-od-2015-do-2025-godine>

<sup>293</sup> [http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta\\_procedura/2014/113.14Lat.pdf](http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2014/113.14Lat.pdf)

<sup>294</sup> <http://arhiva.mre.gov.rs/doc/efikasnost-izvori/UREDBA%20O%20UTVRDJIVANJU%20PROGRAMA%20OSTVARIVANJA%20STRATEGIJE%20RAZVOJA%20ENERGETIKE%20ZA%20PERIOD%20OD%202017%20DO%202023.pdf>

<sup>295</sup> <http://otvorenavlada.rs/strategija-mineralni-resursi0595-lat-doc/>

**Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023** contributes to the progress in achieving this goal by easing the conditions for obtaining loans to SMEs that implement innovative projects.

**Republic of Serbia's National Emission Reduction Plan**, adopted by the Government in June 2015, whereby Serbia committed to reducing emission levels by 9.8% relative to the 1990 level, by 2030, plays also significant role in the achieving the target **9.4 retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and and environmentally sound technologies**. The Law on Climate Change has been adopted, and it should regulate the system for limiting greenhouse gas emissions, the system for adapting to changed climatic conditions, as well as the system for monitoring, reporting and verification. The implementation of the above-mentioned Energy Sector Development Strategy is also highly relevant to the achievement of this target. Certain sector-specific policies and regulations also take into account resource sustainability and clean technologies. A good example is the promotion of energy savings in public transport and state-managed buildings with a view to achieving two categories of objectives: cost-effectiveness, achieved through lower energy consumption, and an environmental objective in terms of reducing the emissions of carbon-dioxide and other gases, as well as application of the model for standard "environmentally friendly" technical specifications for certain products. **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets** (not time-bound and no accompanying AP) (not time-bound and no accompanying AP), which defines an environmentally friendly link between natural resources and goods as inputs in the production process and industrial activities in which these resources are used, contributes to this goal.

Target **9.5 enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities and encouraging innovation is covered by the Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 with the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023** which is described in detail in SDG 8. In addition, elements of the Strategy related to increasing investments in the science and research, strengthening the links between science and the economy, as well as developing scientific infrastructure and staff are of immense importance.

**Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2027 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2022** defines the general objective: Directed development of the Republic of Serbia towards a highly competitive economy through research, development, innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives in the areas of 4S. One of the important goals in the field of machines and production processes of the future is to improve the cooperation of companies with scientific research organizations by initiating joint research and development projects.

**Strategy for the Development of the Information Society and Information Security in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023** constitutes the Digital Agenda of the Republic of Serbia. In this way, the goals of information society development and information security are united. This strategic framework, together with **the Strategy for the Development of Digital Skills in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024** (no accompanying AP) and **the Strategy for the Development of New Generation Networks until 2023** (no accompanying AP) contributes to achieving the goal of **9.c increase access to information and communications technology**. In this way, additional harmonization will be made with the Directive 2014/61/EU on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks. Other activities and investments are planned to improve broadband infrastructure.

<sup>296</sup> <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Strategija-srpski.pdf>

<sup>297</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/21/3>

<sup>298</sup> <https://mtt.gov.rs/download/strategija%20info.pdf>

<sup>299</sup> <https://mtt.gov.rs/download/Strategija%20razvoja%20digitalnih%20vestina%20u%20RS%20za%20period%202020-2024.pdf>

<sup>300</sup> [https://mtt.gov.rs/download/3/2A\\_Strategija%20razvoja%20mreza%20-%202023.pdf](https://mtt.gov.rs/download/3/2A_Strategija%20razvoja%20mreza%20-%202023.pdf)

## 2.2.4. Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity (sustainable development goals 6, 7, 11, 12,13, 15)

The results of mapping the strategic framework in relation to the goals relevant to environmental protection and the fight against climate change are described.



### GOAL 6: Clean water and sanitation

#### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

Globally, numerous efforts have been made to expand the coverage of people who have access to drinking water (**6.1 safe and affordable drinking water for all**). The total of 75% of the population in the Republic of Serbia had access to drinking water sources (UN indicator 6.1.1a) in 2020 . In rural areas, 67% of the population had access to drinking water, while in urban areas 81.5% in 2020 (UN indicator 6.1.1.b).

In order to improve basic living condition it is necessary to **achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation (6.2)**. Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services and hand-washing facilities (UN indicator 6.2.1a) amounted to 18% in 2020 . Proportion of population disposing of waste material to be treated outside households (UN indicator 6.2.1c) amounted to 15.2% in 2019 .

The degree of **improvement of water quality (6.3)** is greatly influenced by: reducing pollution, eliminating deposits and discharges of hazardous chemicals, reducing the share of untreated water and increasing recycling. The total of 65.2% of the population was connected to the sewerage system, while 89.5% were connected to the water supply network in 2019 . Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated (UN indicator 6.3.1) was 13.1 in 2019 . Wastewater treatment is at a low level, given that in Serbia, in 68 cities and municipalities, there are only forty treatment plants and that only 15.6% of wastewater is treated before discharge into recipients (out of a total of 308 million m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater discharged in 2019, only 48 million m<sup>3</sup> were cleaned) . The most common type of treatment was secondary with 69.5% of purified water, followed by tertiary with 19.7% and primary with 10.8% in 2019. Belgrade, as the largest producer of wastewater, still does not have a wastewater treatment plant. The most important precondition for the implementation of the Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive is the restructuring of public enterprises, improving cost collection and dynamic harmonization of tariffs for financing the work of developed infrastructure. Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (UN indicator 6.3.2) was 67.8% in 2017 .

One of the segments of caring for water resources is **water-use efficiency across all sectors and sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater (6.4)**. Change in water-use efficiency over time (WUE) (UN indicator) amounted to 740.47 RSD/m<sup>3</sup> in 2019 . Water exploitation index (WEI) (UN indicator 6.4.2) amounted to 3.27 % in 2019 .

Cross-border cooperation is extremely important **to implement integrated water resources management at all levels (6.5)**. Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (UN indicator 6.5.2) amounted to 89.65% in 2019 .

As per target **6.b the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management**, there was a high level of participation of service users/communities in urban/rural

<sup>301</sup> <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/dashboard/new>

<sup>302</sup> <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/dashboard/new>

<sup>303</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN06020104?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>304</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN06020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>305</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/pdf/G20205663.pdf>

<sup>306</sup> <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/2501030302?languageCode=sr-Latn>

<sup>307</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Pdf/G20205663.pdf>

<sup>308</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN060302?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

drinking water supply planning programmes (UN indicator 6.b.1a), as well as clearly defined procedures for participation (UN indicator 6.b.1b) in 2019. There was a high level of participation of users/communities in water planning and management programmes (UN indicator 6.b.1c) with clearly defined legal or political procedures for participation (UN indicator 6.b.1d) in 2019.

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

EU water legislation is extremely important not only for the member states, but also for all countries that intend to cooperate or become members of the Union. The most important enactment in the field of water is the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC), which is an operational tool for achieving the key objectives of European water policy: comprehensive protection of all waters, taking into account the natural interaction between them in quantitative and qualitative terms, with the application of the principles of integrated water resources management. The concept of integration of all relevant segments (water resources at the basin level, environmental protection, water use, legislation, decision-making levels, water management of transboundary basins through international cooperation, etc.) is the key to achieving the proclaimed goals.

The Framework Directive includes and links other directives directly or indirectly related to the area of water, two of which are the most important: The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Directive on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption, i.e. the Drinking Water Directive.

The Republic of Serbia participates in international activities in the Danube, Sava and Tisa river basins. As a result of many years of ICPDR activities on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the first Danube River Basin Management Plan was adopted in 2009 and the second Danube River Basin Management Plan in 2015, the Tisa River Basin Management Plan in 2011 and in 2014. The Sava River Basin Management Plan was adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (December 2014). Each of the mentioned plans determines the Joint Programme of measures to be implemented in order to improve the state of the environment in the basin.

**SDG 6** is implemented in Serbia through the transposition of two key EU directives. The relative harmonization with **the Drinking Water Directive** has been achieved in many fields, but there are major problems in the part of the territory of AP Vojvodina when it comes to the presence of arsenic in groundwater. The investment needs for the implementation of **the Drinking Water Directive**, and in particular the **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**, are enormous. Namely, the water management sector occupies the highest place in the share of total approximation costs in the field of environment. According to estimates, to reach EU standards in the water management, it is necessary to invest 5.5 billion euros (1.3 billion euros for drinking water, 3.3 billion euros for wastewater and 0.9 euros to reduce water pollution from agriculture) in the period from 2011 to 2030.

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<sup>309</sup> Change in water-use efficiency over time (WUE) is the ratio of gross value added and total affected water to grouped sectors of economic activities.

<sup>310</sup> SORS,SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN060401?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>311</sup> Water Exploitation Index (WEI) is a share in the total water caught in the available water

<sup>312</sup> SORS,SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN060402?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>313</sup> YH, <https://sdg-tracker.org/water-and-sanitation>

<sup>314</sup> SORS,SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN06080101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>315</sup> SORS,SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN06080102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>316</sup> SORS,SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN06080103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>317</sup> SORS,SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN06080104?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>318</sup> <http://www.rdvode.gov.rs/doc/dokumenta/direktiva-eu/1.%20Direktiva%20o%20vodama%202000.%20tekst%20i%20anex%20I-X-prec.tekst.pdf>

<sup>319</sup> Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (Directive 91/271/EEC), Directive on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption (Directive 98/83/EC), Directive concerning the Protection of Waters against Pollution Caused by Nitrates from Agricultural Sources (Directive 91/676/EEC), Directive on the Abstraction of Drinking Water (Directive 75/440/EEC), Directive on the Management of Bathing Water Quality (Directive 2006/71/EC), Directive on Pollution caused by Certain Dangerous Substances Discharged into the Aquatic Environment of the Community (Directive 2006/111); Directive on the Protection of Groundwater against Pollution and Deterioration (Directive 2006/118/EC), Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (Directive 2008/1/EC), Directive on Environmental Quality Standards in the Field of Water Policy (2008/105/EC), Directive Laying Down Technical Specifications for Chemical Analyses and Monitoring of Water Status (Directive 2009/90/EC), Directive of the Assessment and Management of Flood Risk (Directive 2007/60).

### 3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda

The key strategic document in this area is **the Water Management Strategy on the territory of the Republic of Serbia until 2034**, which is especially related to the implementation of targets **6.1 achieve universal and equal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all**, **6.3 improve water quality (UN indicator 6.3.1)**, **6.4 increase water-use efficiency across all sectors** (UN indicator 6.4.1), and **6.5 integrated water resources management at all levels**. The goal of the Strategy is to achieve integrated water management, i.e. harmonized water regime on the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia and ensure such water management that achieves maximum economic and social effects in a fair and sustainable manner while respecting international agreements (UN indicator 6.5.2). According to estimates, for the development and efficient management of the water sector in the next 20 years, it is necessary to allocate 21.7 billion euros, of which investments for sewerage and water protection amount to 43% (7.7 billion euros) (UN indicator 6.5.1 and UN indicator 6.a.1). **Action Plan for the Implementation of the Water Management Strategy on the territory of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 was also adopted.** **National Environmental Approximation Strategy** (not time-bound, no accompanying Action Plan) recognizes the importance of water management and contains the necessary activities to improve the situation in this area by 2030.



## GOAL 7: Affordable and renewable energy

### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

To achieve energy sustainability, it is important to **ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services (7.1)**. Proportion of population with access to electricity in territory of Serbia was 99.8% in 2019. (UN indicator 7.1.1). Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (UN indicator 7.1.2) was 52.4% in 2019. Observed by the level of education of persons owner of households, only 21.1% of the population without education or with lower education, primarily relied on clean fuels and technologies in 2019 (51.4% with secondary and 79.5% of the population with higher or higher education). The total of 6.1% of the poorest population used clean fuels and technologies, while 97.4% of the richest relied on this type of fuel and technology in 2019.

It is very important to use **energy from renewable sources as much as possible (7.2)**. Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (UN indicator 7.2.1) was 21.44% in 2019. Renewable energy sources share in the electricity sector was 30.11%, in the transport sector 1.14% and in the heating and cooling sector 26.65% in 2019.

Energy production while minimizing costs and maximizing the use of existing resources contributes to improving **energy efficiency (7.3)**. As of 2011, energy intensity (UN indicator 7.3.1) was (507.18 toe/1000 EUR) slowly decreasing and in 2019 it amounted to 407.54 toe/1000 EUR. The average value of this indicator for the EU 27 in 2019 was 119.48 toe/1000 EUR, which indicates that the Serbian economy spends much more energy to produce GDP than EU members and is ranked only ahead of Iceland. Total final energy consumption (TFEC) in 2019 was 9.07 Mtoe, of which households accounted for 2,873 Mtoe, industry 2,181 Mtoe and traffic 2,309 Mtoe.

<sup>320</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/80/1/reg>

<sup>321</sup> <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/strategija-upravljanja-vodama-u-srbiji-do-2034.html>

<sup>322</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/80/1/reg>

<sup>323</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN070101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>324</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN07010201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>325</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN07010202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>326</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN07010203?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

**SDG 7** is implemented in Serbia through a set of strategic documents and institutional arrangements that ensure coordinated energy development of the region of Southeast Europe. The Energy acquis and the part of the environmental acquis, through which the highest European standards in this area are pursued, are implemented under the supervision of the Energy Community for South East Europe.

## 3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda

Key targets: **7.1 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, 7.2. increase substantially the share of renewable energy and 7.3. improvement in energy efficiency are covered by the Energy Development Strategy with the projections until 2030**. Conditions, manner, dynamics and measures for the implementation of this Strategy are determined by the Programme for the Implementation of **the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025 with projections until 2030, for the period from 2017 to 2023**.

According to Article 20 of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, the Republic of Serbia has assumed the obligation to implement European directives in the field of renewable energy sources. Thus, Directive 2009/28/EC on the Promotion of the Use of Renewable Energy Sources sets a required binding target for the Republic of Serbia of 27% of renewable energy sources in its gross final energy consumption in 2020 (UN indicator 7.2.1). The Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources encourages the production and consumption of electricity from large and small watercourses, wind and solar energy, the production and consumption of thermal energy from geothermal energy and solid biomass. The long-term goal is to produce about 40% of electricity and heat from renewable sources by 2040, and 50% by 2050.

The Integrated Plan for Energy and Climate until 2030 (under development) and the Long-Term Strategy for Encouraging Investments in the Renovation of the National Building Fund of the Republic of Serbia (under development) will define a set of measures that will contribute to improving energy efficiency decree (UN indicator 7.3.1).

In the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, the main partners of the Republic of Serbia are the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit-BMZ), the German Development Bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau-KfW) and the German International Cooperation Organization (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit-GIZ), as part of the programme of the German Climate and Technology Initiative (Deutsche Klima- und Technologieinitiative-DKTI) (UN indicator 7.a.1). The largest scope of cooperation refers to the use of biomass and geothermal energy sources in heating plants.

**Expand energy infrastructure (7.b.)** at the regional level is supported through a list of priority projects of the Energy Community, which meet the general and specific criteria for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure (PECI) and whose long-term benefits outweigh the costs and cross-border dimension. Through the Energy Strategy, the Energy Community of South East Europe encourages the strengthening of the energy sector through international cooperation (UN indicator 7.a.1) and the improvement of infrastructure and technological capacities (UN indicator 7.b.1).

In accordance with the **Programme for Implementation of the Energy Strategy**, Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025, Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, Action Plans in the field of RES and energy efficiency and other relevant strategic documents, new or harmonized laws and bylaws (Amendments to the Law on Energy, Law on Energy Efficiency and Rational Use of Energy and the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources) were adopt-

<sup>327</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN070201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>328</sup> Eurostat, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/NRG\\_IND\\_EL\\_custom\\_1384342/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/NRG_IND_EL_custom_1384342/default/table?lang=en)

<sup>329</sup> Енергетски биланс 2021, [http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/t2020\\_12/SG\\_156\\_2020\\_009.htm](http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/t2020_12/SG_156_2020_009.htm)

<sup>330</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2015/101/1/reg>

<sup>331</sup> [https://www.energy-community.org/dam/jcr:a570004e-f999-481b-8388-2ceff663b7ca/ECS\\_strategy\\_projects.pdf](https://www.energy-community.org/dam/jcr:a570004e-f999-481b-8388-2ceff663b7ca/ECS_strategy_projects.pdf)

ed and harmonised with EU Directives and Recommendations, Decisions and Recommendations of the Energy Community and the Western Balkan Sustainable Charter within the Berlin Process.

## GOAL 11: Sustainable cities and communities

### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

Decades of lagging behind or stagnant development, as well as numerous inappropriate responses to the challenges of transition that have seriously threatened the development of Serbian cities and settlements, and especially the quality of life in them urge for the need to improve urban and urban settlement development policy in Serbia. The existing legal framework reflects the principles of sustainable development, integrated approach, but is still not fully harmonized or coherent. Therefore, there is a need to introduce modern, contemporary principles of sustainable urban development in line with EU policies and the UN Urban Agenda.

**SDG 11**, and in particular target **11.1. regarding the access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services**, is implemented through the policies formulated under the **National Social Housing Strategy and its accompanying Action Plan until 2022**. The biggest problem from the perspective of social housing arose after mass and unrealistically cheap privatization of apartments in the early 90s, when the public housing stock almost completely disappeared, and simultaneously, privatization failed to provide expected financial return necessary to provide for the housing needs of the population with lower incomes. Another big problem is poor housing conditions in terms of housing infrastructure, mainly referring to connection to sewage and remote heating systems, as well as informal settlements lacking adequate utility services. **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma of the Republic of Serbia in the period from 2016 to 2025** (accompanying AP has expired), which aims to improve the living conditions of Roma in accordance with international standards regarding the right to adequate housing, also contributes to improving housing conditions. The National Housing Strategy is being drafted. Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (UN indicator) amounted to 3.6% in 2018.

Target **11.2 sustainable transport systems and road safety** was implemented through the Road Traffic Safety Strategy in the period from 2015 to 2020 aiming to reduce mortality rate and heavy injury risk. After the expiry of the mentioned Strategy, only the Law on Road Traffic Safety regulates road traffic safety. In water transport, the development of the transport system and increasing the level of safety are contained in the **Strategy on Development of Waterborne Transport of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2015 to 2025** (accompanying AP has expired), while in railway transport it is defined through the **National Programme for Public Rail Infrastructure in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2017 to 2021** (no accompanying AP). Target **11.3 inclusive and sustainable urbanisation** is the topic covered by the **Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 with the Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2022**.

### 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

The general goal of the Strategy is sustainable and integrated development of urban settlements. It is also harmonized with the policies of the European Union, which has adopted a large number of policies, charters and declarations establishing the framework of sustainable and integrated urban development in its member states. The key documents are the **“Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities” (2007), Toledo Declaration on Urban Development (2010), Riga Declaration (2015), EU Urban Agenda (2016) and the EU Territorial Agenda 2030 (2020)**. At European level, there is a clear consensus on the character of the European city of the future and

<sup>332</sup> [https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/NACIONALNA%20STRATEGIJA%20SOCIJALNOG%20STANOVANJA\\_0.pdf](https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/NACIONALNA%20STRATEGIJA%20SOCIJALNOG%20STANOVANJA_0.pdf)

<sup>333</sup> [https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/Nacionalna%20stambena%20strategija\\_NACRT\\_0.pdf](https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/Nacionalna%20stambena%20strategija_NACRT_0.pdf)

<sup>334</sup> <https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?dsid=2&series=EN.POP.SLUM.UR.ZS>

<sup>335</sup> [https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/Zakon%20o%20bezbednosti%20saobracaja%20na%20putevima\\_0.pdf](https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/Zakon%20o%20bezbednosti%20saobracaja%20na%20putevima_0.pdf)

<sup>336</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/471/reg>

the principles on which the ideal European city should be based (EC 2011, 2014, 2020). The new UN Urban Agenda was adopted within the Habitat III - UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito in 2016. It sets new standards for integrated and sustainable development, and provides guidelines for sustainable urban development in the Member States. Member States have committed themselves to transposing the New Urban Agenda through implementing and participatory urban policies at national and subnational level (UN indicator 11.3.2). The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IGUTP) are the first global document in the field of spatial and urban planning adopted by the UN Habitat Governing Council.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

By adopting the Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development, the Republic of Serbia has transferred the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations to the national level, within its national framework. Also, it is the basis for the development of a new Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia.

The expired **Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia** stated the protection, controlled and sustainable use of nature, natural resources, natural and cultural heritage as its first operational goal. To attain target **11.4 protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage**, it is important to adopt a new Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia (public debate finalised). The Strategy for Cultural Development from 2020 to 2029 was adopted by the Government and sent to the National Assembly for its adoption, but it was returned to the new procedure. The envisaged measures (contained in the Strategy for Cultural Development), among other things, relate to the integrated protection of cultural and natural heritage, which will contribute to achieving the target 11.4, which relates to this area (UN indicator 11.4.1).

**National Disaster Risk Management Programme** (not time-bound, accompanying AP has expired) provides support to the Government's efforts to align with the EU acquis, in particular the Water Management Directive, the Floods Directive, and the Climate Change Adaptation Directive, as well as the Civil Society Directive. It also promotes the strengthening of regional platforms for cooperation in the management of transboundary river basins, which is essential for water and torrent management, which the Republic of Serbia controls in only one part (Danube, Sava, Drina, Tisa, etc.). This contributes to the achievement of the target **11.5 reduction of harmful effects caused by natural disasters. National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations** (not time-bound and no accompanying AP) through strategic areas of planning and risk management seeks to contribute to the reduction of economic and human losses caused by natural disasters. Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (UN indicator 11.5.1a) was 0.04 in 2020. Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (UN indicator 11.5.1b) was 22.91 in 2020. Direct economic losses caused by disasters (UN indicator 11.5.2.a) amounted to 6.6 mil. US dollars in 2019. Of that, agricultural losses amounted to 1.7 million. US dollars, while losses in the housing sector amounted to 4.9 mil. US dollars in 2019. A total of eight disruptions of basic services and eight disruptions of educational services due to disasters (UN indicator 11.5.2.b) were recorded in 2019. Direct losses attributed to disasters as a share of GDP (UN indicator 11.5.2.c) amounted to 0.00013% in 2019.

**Air quality and municipal and other waste management (11.6)** was covered by the Waste Management Strategy for the period from 2010 to 2019. A new policy document for waste management is being drafted, and drafting a strategic document for improving air quality at the national

<sup>337</sup> <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/PPRS%20Nacrt.pdf>

<sup>338</sup> <http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/Nacionalni%20program%20upravljanja%20rizikom%20od%20elementarnih%20nepogoda.pdf>

<sup>339</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2011/86/1/reg>

<sup>340</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/deaths-and-missing-persons-due-to-natural-disasters?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>341</sup> UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-people-directly-affected-by-natural-disasters?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>342</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11050201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

level is expected to start soon. Currently, this area is largely regulated by **National Plan for the Reduction of the Main Pollutant Emissions from Old Large Combustion Plant -NERP**. This programme defines the maximum emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter, which will contribute to limiting the degree of pollution. In zones and agglomerations where the air is of the third category, i.e. when air pollution exceeds the effects of measures taken, i.e. when the capacity of the environment is endangered or there is constant air pollution in a certain area, the competent authority of the autonomous province and local government is obliged to adopt an **Air Quality Plan**, in order to achieve the appropriate limit values or target values set by applicable regulations. The Ministry in charge of environmental protection approves those air quality plans of local self-government units. The Waste Management Programme (under preparation) and the Air Protection Programme (under preparation) will further contribute to the attainment of this target. According to the latest available data, proportion of municipal waste recycled (UN indicator 11.6.1a) amounted to 0.3% in 2016. The generated waste from which the main mineral waste is excluded (UN indicator 11.6.1b) recorded an increase and amounts to 1,744 kg per capita in 2019. The average mean values of suspended particles in cities - PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles (UN indicator 11.6.2) was 24.7 mg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2017. The limit value for suspended particles PM<sub>2.5</sub> was 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and it was exceeded at 15 of the 28 stations where measurements were performed in 2020. The highest average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles is present in Vanjevo, Novi Pazar and Niš, while in Belgrade it is 30 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2020. The impact of heating plants with a capacity of less than 50 MW and individual combustion plants on the total emissions of suspended PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles was extremely large and amounted to 67% in 2020. The average concentration of PM<sub>10</sub> particles was higher than the allowed 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Valjevo, Zaječar, Užice, Kosjerić and Pančevo in 2020. The total of 51% of the emissions of suspended PM<sub>10</sub> particles came from heating plants with a capacity of less than 50 MW and individual combustion plants in 2020.

**Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 with its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2022** contributes towards achieving target **11.7 provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces**. Improving the quality of the environment, health and safety of residents in urban settlements, as one of the special goals of this Strategy, creates conditions for the progress in this area.

**Strengthening national and regional development planning (11.a)** is contained in the **Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 with the Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2022**. This Strategy defines a special goal: more efficient management of urban development, which is directly related to 11.a. Thanks to this strategic framework, the Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that respond to population dynamics, ensure balanced territorial development and increase local fiscal space (UN indicator 11.a.1).

**The implementation of integrated policies and plans aimed at inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction** in accordance with the Sendai Framework at the level of cities and settlements **(11.b)** is an integral part of the **Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of Serbia until 2030 with accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2022**. The assessment of the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the Sendai Framework (UN indicator 11.b.1) was 0.025 in 2018. There is a low share of local governments that adopted and implemented disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the national disaster risk reduction strategy (UN indicator 11.b.2a) was 4.6% in 2018. Only 8 local governments (UN indicator 11.b.2b) out of a total of 174 adopted and implemented the above-mentioned strategies, integrated policies and plans aimed at inclusion, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, resilience to natural disasters in accordance with the Sendai Framework.

<sup>343</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11050202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>344</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11050203?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>345</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2020/10/1/reg>

<sup>346</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11060100?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>347</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11060101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>348</sup> <https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?dsid=2&series=EN.ATM.PM25.MC.M3>

<sup>349</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, [http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh\\_2020.pdf](http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh_2020.pdf)

<sup>350</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, [http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh\\_2020.pdf](http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh_2020.pdf)



### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

It is necessary to provide **sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2)**. Domestic material consumption (DMC)(UN indicator 12.2.2) was 126.625 million tons in 2019 while resource productivity was 39.2 RSD/kg in 2019 .

Target **12.3** indicates the need to **halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains**. Food waste per capita (UN indicator 12.3.1) was 104.4 kg in 2019 . Observed by sectors, the largest volume of this waste was generated in the household sector and amounted to 82.8 kg, followed by retail sales with 15.6 kg and non-household consumption with 6 kg in 2019.

It is necessary to **have environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes (12.4)**. The extent to which the Republic of Serbia fulfils its obligations under international agreements on the management of chemicals and waste to which it is a signatory is shown by the UN indicator 12.4.1. The degree of fulfilment of obligations under the following international agreements is as follows: Montreal Protocol 100%, Rotterdam Convention 96.5%, Basel Convention 80% and Stockholm Convention 37.5% in 2020 . The total amount of waste generated in the course of 2020 amounted to about 56.3 million tons; quantities decreased by 12.8% compared to 2019 . Hazardous waste accounted for 20.1% of total waste generated in 2020 (UN indicator 12.4.2). The largest part of the total and hazardous waste was generated in the mining sector and amounted to 45.7 million tons, followed by the sector of electricity, gas and steam supply with 7.9 million tons and processing industry with 1.1 million tons in 2020. Out of the total treated 55.9 million tons of waste, only 4.2% was reused while 95.8% was disposed of in 2020.

Generated waste should **be substantially reduced through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse (12.5)**. National recycling rate (UN indicator 12.5.1) amounted to 343.000 tons of recycled material in 2020 . Out of the total amount of processed waste, waste metals were the most represented, followed by waste from thermal processes (waste from processed and unprocessed slag from the iron and steel industry) and paper and cardboard packaging.

The main waste management related challenges in Serbia still relate to providing good coverage and capacity to extend basic services, such as waste collection, transport and sanitation. The closure and reclamation of existing landfills and the construction of 29 regional sanitary landfills are planned. The total of 11 sanitary landfills were built by the end of 2020, and regional sanitary landfills are currently under construction in Nova Varoš and Indija.

Each local self-government had the obligation to develop a local waste management plan, and each region was obliged to develop a regional waste management plan. Six municipalities have not yet joined any waste management regions. Although they have the obligation to dispose of waste in sanitary landfills, local self-government units fail to do that. Based on the submitted data from 131 local self-governments on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, there are 2,305 illegal

<sup>343</sup> SORS, SDG <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11050202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>344</sup> SORS, SDG <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11050203?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>345</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2020/10/1/reg>

<sup>346</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11060100?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>347</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11060101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>348</sup> <https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?dsid=2&series=EN.ATM.PM25.MC.M3>

<sup>349</sup> Агенција за заштиту животне средине, [http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh\\_2020.pdf](http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh_2020.pdf)

<sup>350</sup> Агенција за заштиту животне средине, [http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh\\_2020.pdf](http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh_2020.pdf)

<sup>351</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN110901?languageCode=sr-Cyrl&displayMode=table>

<sup>352</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN11090201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>353</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN12020201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>354</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN12020202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>355</sup> UN Environment Programme, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/food-waste-per-capita?country=~SRB>

<sup>356</sup> UN Office of Legal Affairs, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/parties-to-multilateral-agreements-on-hazardous-waste?country=~SRB>

<sup>357</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211172.pdf>

<sup>358</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN120501?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

landfills registered. Cleaning of illegal landfill areas was not performed at any of the 1,369 locations in 2019. Capacities in landfills on the territory of municipalities in the Republic of Serbia are mostly filled, and a significant number of such landfills do not even have any minimum technical standards. According to data obtained from 144 local governments, public utility companies dispose of waste in 137 unsanitary landfills. Waste is disposed of in a total of 42 non-sanitary landfills without any control. Non-sanitary landfills and dumps are big polluters, but also a great danger, because fires are frequent, and the spread of infections is possible. During 2019, many unsanitary landfills and dumps were caught in fire .

Based on the Report on the Implementation of the Packaging Waste Reduction Plan for the period from 2020 to 2024, it can be concluded that all operators of the packaging waste management system met the general national goals for 2020.

Each local self-government has the obligation to develop a local waste management plan, and each region, a regional waste management plan. At the local level, almost 84% of municipalities adopted such plans. Of the 28 planned regional plans, 13 have not been adopted or prepared. This is a sufficient evidence of poor inter-municipal cooperation, which significantly affects the functionality and effects of regional landfills .

Adoption of **sustainable practices and integration of sustainability information into the reporting cycle of companies (12.6)** is absent. This type of business activities at the EU level is integrated within the **Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy 2030 (CSR Europe's 2030 Strategy)** . In the Republic of Serbia, only one company prepared an annual report on business sustainability, taking into account economic aspects, social aspects and aspects of environmental impact (UN indicator 12.6.1) in 2020 .

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

SDG 12, and in particular targets related to **sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2), environmentally sound management of chemicals (12.4), substantially reduce waste generation and its treatment (12.5) and finally public procurement in accordance with principles of sustainability (12.7)** are addressed in numerous measures and activities implemented at the level of EU and in the Republic of Serbia.

The transition to an improved circular economy in the EU is being materialised through the so-called “Circular Economy Package” adopted by the European Commission in late 2015. The package implies various instruments including legal proposals for waste, with targets related to reducing landfills and increasing recycling and reuse. In order to close the product life cycle, this package of measures also includes an Action Plan that should support the principles of the circular economy at every step of the value chain from production to consumption. Immediate synergy with EU climate and energy goals and a package of measures adopted through the document **Clean Energy for all Europeans** is evident.

As per SDG 12, **EU Waste Framework Directive** is of immense importance along with its two key objectives: prevention and reduction of adverse impact resulting from waste generation and management and improvement of resource efficiency. Waste prevention and reuse are desirable options, followed by recycling and energy recovery. **The 7th Environment Action Programme**

<sup>359</sup> <https://www.koalicija27.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Upravljanje-otpadom-2020-web.pdf>

<sup>360</sup> [https://www.koalicija27.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Upravljanje-otpadom\\_2021.pdf](https://www.koalicija27.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Upravljanje-otpadom_2021.pdf)

<sup>361</sup> <http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/AMB20.pdf>

<sup>362</sup> [Upravljanje-otpadom-2020-web.pdf \(koalicija27.org\)](http://www.koalicija27.org)

<sup>363</sup> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5df776f6866c14507f2df68a/t/5e675f0e420f293bb2ef3936/1583832851658/CSR+Europe+2030+Strategy+Brochure.pdf>

<sup>364</sup> UN Conference on Trade and Development, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/companies-publishing-sustainability-reports-minimum-requirements?region=Europe&country=-SRB>

lists resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economies as one of its goals. Proposal for 8th Environment Action Programme has been prepared and its main goal is climate neutrality. **Roadmap to resource efficient Europe** provides guidelines for increasing resource productivity and separating economic growth from resource use and environmental impact.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

In Serbia, the key strategic documents in this area are the **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets**, which is not time-bound and has no accompanying AP, hence its implementation is not possible to be monitored, and the **Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with projections until 2030, which includes renewable energy sources and strengthening energy efficiency and the Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 in the segment of circular economy**. Public Procurement Development Programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2019 to 2023 is also important along with its accompanying Action Plan for 2021, which sets out priority goals, one of which relates to increasing the efficiency and economy of public procurement procedures and is directly related to SDG 12.7. and UN indicator 12.7.1. The key goal is to promote and encourage environmental and social aspects in public procurement and innovations.

**Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023** continues to include topics of sustainable development in the curricula, thus contributing to increasing **relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature (12.8)**. Some of the activities for the realization of this goal are: accreditation of trainings related to sustainable development, training of teaching staff on sustainable development, development and implementation of trainings to strengthen students' capacity to carry out activities related to sustainable development, collective well-being and democratic culture.

The adoption of certain strategic documents is expected, which would further contribute to the progress in the implementation of the SDG 12. The Cleaner Production Programme, Circular Economy Programme and the Waste Management Programme, which are under preparation, will contribute to the progress of the conditions under 12.2, 12.3, 12.4 and 12.5.



## **GOAL 13: Climate action**

### **1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs**

Climate change manifests itself primarily through a shift in the trend of average annual temperature and precipitation. Assessment for our region point to an increase of the global air temperature of up to 1.5 oC (increase over 2,5 oC in summertime). Furthermore, summer rainfall is expected to drop by 10% to 20%.

Based on assessments, different scenarios for the growth of global average temperature by the end of the century have been developed. The consequences are presented through the expected reduction in GDP due to global warming, starting from four different scenarios (RCP 2.6, RCP 4.5, RCP 6 and RCP 8.5) which mean four different increases in mean global temperature by the end of the century (1°C, 2°C, 3°C and 4°C). Maintaining the growth of average global temperature until the end of the century within the framework of the Paris Agreement (2°C) would lead to a loss of Serbia's GDP of 4.53% by the middle of the century, which can be significantly reduced by investing in adapting to changing climatic conditions.

<sup>365</sup> [https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b4e46873-7528-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/language-en?WT.mc\\_id=Searchresult&WT.ria\\_c=null&WT.ria\\_f=3608&WT.ria\\_ev=search](https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b4e46873-7528-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/language-en?WT.mc_id=Searchresult&WT.ria_c=null&WT.ria_f=3608&WT.ria_ev=search)

<sup>366</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098\\_20180705](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098_20180705)

<sup>367</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013D1386>

<sup>368</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/EAP/2020/10/EAP-draft.pdf>

<sup>369</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0571>

<sup>370</sup> [https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NDC\\_CCA\\_MirjamVujadinovicMandic.pdf](https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NDC_CCA_MirjamVujadinovicMandic.pdf)

**Adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards (13.1)** is immensely important for the environmental protection. Numerous factors are important in the fight against climate change, such as air quality, waste management, water management, nature and land protection, control of industrial pollution and energy transformations, risk management, efficiency and quality of civil protection.

In 2020, the air in all agglomerations (Valjevo, Zaječar, Užice, Kosjerić, Pančevo, Novi Pazar, Niš, Belgrade, Smederevo, Bor, Subotica) was excessively polluted because the limit values for one or more pollutants were exceeded. In all of these agglomerations, the air was excessively polluted due to the high concentration of PM10 and (or) PM2.5 particles, with the exception of Bor, which is classified among the cities in the highest category of pollution due to excessive concentration of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). The number of deaths and missing persons as a result of natural disasters per 100,000 inhabitants (UN indicator 13.1.1b) was 0.04 in 2020. The number of internally displaced persons as a result of natural disasters (UN indicator 1.3.1a) was 880 in 2020. The assessment of the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the Sendai Framework (UN indicator 13.1.2) was 0.025 in 2018. The total of 8 of local governments adopted and implemented disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the national disaster risk reduction strategy (UN indicator 13.1.3b) in 2018. Proportion of these local governments in the total number of local governments (UN indicator 13.1.3a) was 4.6% in 2018.

It is necessary to **integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (13.2)**. Total greenhouse gas emissions per year (UN indicator 13.2.2) amounted to 62.51 Mt in 2018 (64.4 Mt in 2017).

A significant challenge in the process of combating climate change and designing appropriate mitigation measures is posed by the availability and timely collection of quality field data. In order to overcome the mentioned challenge, the Republic of Serbia has started establishing a system for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), which is one of the main requirements of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and is in line with the Paris Agreement. The project Development of Climate Change Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System - Establishment of a transparency framework for the Republic of Serbia aims to develop an IT system that will enable efficient and regular reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, as well as on guidelines and measures. Establishment of a complete MRV system began with financial and technical assistance provided by the European Union (through the IPA project "Establishment of a mechanism for implementation of monitoring mechanism regulation -MMR"), while the ministry responsible for environmental protection and climate change is responsible for project implementation. In cooperation with the Austrian Environmental Protection Agency, an MRV system was developed. It consists six modules: policies and measures (PAMs), climate change financing, adaptation to climate change, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), mitigation projections and scenarios, and greenhouse gas inventories. Trainings are planned for 2021, after which the full implementation of this system is expected.

## **2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area of Climate Change**

As a frontrunner in the area of environmental protection and climate change mitigation policy (**Negotiating Chapter 27**), the EU has adopted a series of directives setting the highest standards in fostering sustainable development. It does so by making a transition to resource-efficient economy; applying the "polluter pays" principle; fighting against harm to the environment at its source; adapting to climate change; and building resilience to disasters. The area of climate change is governed by 58 different decisions/regulations/directives. The transposition, and even more so, the implementation of the EU directives into national legislation is highly demanding

<sup>371</sup> [https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/cir\\_screen-\\_06-04-2020\\_DRAFT\\_-Study-on-the-Socio-economic-Aspects-of-Climate-Change-on-the-Republic-of-Serbia\\_UNDP.pdf](https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/cir_screen-_06-04-2020_DRAFT_-Study-on-the-Socio-economic-Aspects-of-Climate-Change-on-the-Republic-of-Serbia_UNDP.pdf)

<sup>372</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, [http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh\\_2020.pdf](http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izv/Vazduh_2020.pdf)

<sup>373</sup> The extent to which national disaster risk reduction strategies are adopted and implemented in accordance with the 2015-2030 Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. A higher value (0-1) indicates a higher degree of compliance.

<sup>374</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN130102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>375</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN13010302?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>376</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN13010301?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>377</sup> [https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions?end\\_year=2018&gases=all-ghg&regions=SRB&sectors=total-including-lucf&start\\_year=1990](https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions?end_year=2018&gases=all-ghg&regions=SRB&sectors=total-including-lucf&start_year=1990)

and requires massive investments. The investment costs necessary to fully harmonise the national legislation with the EU requirements are estimated at 294 million euros in the area of air quality and climate change alone.

Reducing energy consumption and environmental pollution produced by energy system transformation is among the key goals of the EU energy policy which drives the implementation of a significant portion of climate acquis. The Energy Community of South East Europe, of which Serbia is a member, steers the implementation of measures aimed at energy efficiency and use of renewables as well as the fulfilment of obligations arising from the Kyoto Protocol. In doing so it contributes to **the implementation of the commitment undertaken by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (13.a)**.

The adoption of the **first and second Report of the Republic of Serbia under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** provides an overview of the current situation and the need for capacity building to manage climate change risks, which is directly related to the SDG 13.1.

In mid-2017, Climate Action Group was set up within the Energy Community of South East Europe acting as a platform for cooperation between representatives of ministries and other relevant institutions in charge of energy, climate change and environment. The goal of the initiative is to support both the development of climate policy and transposition of the relevant regulation into national legislations, and effective implementation of the policy and setting of new 2030 target goals for the signatories. The Energy Community and the Balkan Green Foundation have set up the so-called Sustainability Forum which brings together a number of stakeholders, focusing on transition towards sustainable energy. In parallel, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the EBRD with a view to strengthening cooperation in the area of sustainable energy development and climate change in the Western Balkans.

When it comes to international conventions, the **Framework Convention on Climate Change** adopted at the 1992 Rio Conference is particularly worth mentioning. The objective of the Convention was to stabilise the concentration of the greenhouse gases. Obligations, among other things, refer to development and publication of national inventories of emissions and sources of all emissions not controlled by the Montreal Protocol; formulation, implementation and regularly updating of national and/or regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and measures to mitigate adverse effects and adaptation to climate change. In 1997, 159 countries signed **the Kyoto Protocol**. It laid down the obligations regarding quantified emission limitation for industrialised countries.

Key provisions of the 2015 **Paris Agreement** foresee the following: holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; adoption of nationally determined contributions, i.e. target goals, and revision thereof every five years as well as development of measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of contributions; regular reporting on emissions and the progress made in regard to national target goals.

**Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Hyogo Framework)** aims to substantially reduce disaster risks and losses in lives and livelihoods, damage to health and loss of economic, physical, cultural and environmental assets of people, companies, communities and nations.

In line with the Paris Agreement, the EU launched the **Climate Action, with the aim of making Europe neutral on GHG emissions by 2050 and defining a Long-term strategic vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy by 2050**.

<sup>378</sup> <https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/1.-MRV-system-for-Serbia-6.-modules-in-brief.pdf>

<sup>379</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/viewdoc?uuiid=b37a71ff-f24c-4fbd-ab5e-4de241d87bcc&regactid=425537&doctype=reg>

<sup>380</sup> <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/serbur1se.pdf>

<sup>381</sup> [https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Drugi-izvestaj-o-promeni-klime-SNC\\_Srbija.pdf](https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Drugi-izvestaj-o-promeni-klime-SNC_Srbija.pdf)

<sup>382</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2050-long-term-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2050-long-term-strategy_en)

<sup>383</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2030-climate-energy-framework\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2030-climate-energy-framework_en)

<sup>384</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0562>

The key objectives of the EU are to reduce GHG emissions by at least 40% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels), to reach at least 32% of the share of renewable energy sources and to increase energy efficiency by at least 32.5%. Due to the growing importance of air protection, it is planned to further reduce GHG emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

In line with its obligations to the UNFCCC, Serbia has so far submitted the following documents: **First National Communication on Climate Change** (NC1, 2010), **First Biannual Updated Report** (BUR1, 2016) and the **Second National Report to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** (NC2, 2017).

According to the **Copenhagen Accord**, the Republic of Serbia has voluntarily agreed to limit greenhouse gas emissions by **18% by 2020, compared to 1990 levels**. In 2015, it submitted the **Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)** based on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement, to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 9.8% by 2030 compared to 1990**.

The Republic of Serbia has adopted a set of strategic documents dealing with climate change-related risk management that put into operation the **SDG 13 – target Adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards (13.1)**. National Disaster Risk Management Programme (not time-bound, without accompanying AP) should be stressed. It consists six components: institution building and development; disaster risk identification and monitoring; structural and non-structural risk reduction; early warning systems and preparedness; risk financing strategies; resilient recovery. Disaster Risk Financing Programme of the Republic of Serbia was valid until 2019. It defined goals at the national, local and individual level.

**National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in the State of Emergency** (not time-bound, no accompanying AP) is implemented through strategic areas in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action: making disaster risk reduction a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; reduce the underlying risk factors; and strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels. It is worth mentioning, however, that the Strategy lacks an Action Plan, thus making its implementation and monitoring impossible.

Key strategic documents in this field have not been adopted yet. **Draft Strategy for Low Carbon Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 with projections until 2050**, along with its accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023 (public consultations finalised), has been prepared, as an umbrella document to combat climate change. In addition, the Programme for Adaptation to Changed Climate Conditions is being prepared. The goals of the proposal of the low-carbon development strategy have been set and priority measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions have been identified. Also, the most vulnerable sectors have been identified for which measures to adapt to changed climatic conditions have been proposed: agriculture - food production, forestry and water resources - hydrology. In accordance with the considered scenarios and the proposed goals for the reduction of greenhouse gases, a revision of

<sup>385</sup> [https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/sites/default/files/old-documents/Klimatske\\_promene/Strategije/Prvi%20izvestaj\\_srp\\_web%5B1%5D.pdf](https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/sites/default/files/old-documents/Klimatske_promene/Strategije/Prvi%20izvestaj_srp_web%5B1%5D.pdf)

<sup>386</sup> <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/serbur1se.pdf>

<sup>387</sup> [https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Drugi-izvestaj-o-promeni-klime-SNC\\_Srbija.pdf](https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Drugi-izvestaj-o-promeni-klime-SNC_Srbija.pdf)

<sup>388</sup> <https://klima101.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Nameravani-nacionalno-odredeni-doprinosi.pdf>

<sup>390</sup> <http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/Nacionalni%20program%20upravljanja%20rizikom%20od%20elementarnih%20nepogoda.pdf>

<sup>391</sup> <http://vs3836.cloudhosting.rs/strateg/121/nac/DRF%20Program%20finalna%20verzija.pdf>

<sup>392</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2011/86/1/reg>

the **intended nationally determined contributions for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is being prepared**, as an obligation under the Paris Agreement.

Continuous monitoring of air quality at the level of the Republic of Serbia is enabled through Reports with air quality assessment and determination of air quality categories in zones and agglomerations. Environmental Protection Agency publishes these reports on an annual basis. In addition to these umbrella documents, according to the third revised NPAA adopted in 2018, several more strategic documents related to this area are planned or are already being prepared: Air Quality Protection Strategy (Programme), including aims of UNECE Goteborg protocol and defining long term measures for the reduction of emissions from different sectors relevant to the NEC Directive;

**National Air Pollution Control Programme** - the aim of this national programme will be to limit emissions of certain pollutants of anthropogenic origin in order to achieve defined emission reduction obligations at the national level

**Waste Management Strategy (Programme)**, with integrated National Waste Management Plan, as well as **Hazardous Waste Management Plan and Waste Sludge Management Plan**;

**Development of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Biodegradable Waste** disposed of in landfills and incorporation of the Strategy into the National Waste Management Plan

**National Programme for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation**, in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries with severe drought and/or desertification

Target **13.2. integrate climate change measures into national policies and strategies** was included in several strategic documents (UN indicator 13.2.1), which determined the commitment of the Republic of Serbia to combat climate change. The umbrella documents were the National Environmental Protection Programme, adopted in 2010 for the ten-year period until 2019, and the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2008 to 2017. After the expiration of these documents, no umbrella strategy for combating climate change has been adopted.

The Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan were key strategic documents in the areas of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency until 2020. As of 2021, these areas have been integrated into **the Energy Development Strategy** until 2025 with projections until 2030. This Strategy identifies as one of the three priorities a comprehensive transition to sustainable energy, through the improvement of energy efficiency in performing energy activities and energy consumption; increasing the share of energy from renewable energy sources and improving the state and systems of environmental protection in all areas of energy activities.

**Programme to implement the Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with projections until 2030** for the period from 2017 to 2023 contains a list of measures, activities and projects, including measurable goals and pertaining indicators in the following areas: electricity, heat, renewable energy, oil, natural gas, coal and energy efficiency in the energy sector taking into account environmental aspects and energy efficiency. In addition to the measures and activities taken from the AP for energy efficiency and the AP for the use of renewable energy sources, additional measures and activities are included in order to improve the situation in the areas of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

Cleaner Production Programme (under development) will contribute towards archiving SDG 13.2 through more rational and environmental-friendly use of resources in the production processes.

<sup>392</sup> [https://www.zzps.rs/wp/pdf/Nacionalni\\_program\\_zastite\\_%20zs.pdf](https://www.zzps.rs/wp/pdf/Nacionalni_program_zastite_%20zs.pdf)

<sup>393</sup> <http://www.zurbnis.rs/zakoni/Nacionalna%20strategija%20odrzivog%20razvoja.pdf>

<sup>394</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2015/101/1/r>

<sup>395</sup> <https://biogas.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Uredba-o-utvr%C4%91ivanju-programa-ostvarivanja-Strategije-razvoja-energetike-za-period-od-2017-do-2023.pdf>

In accordance with the obligations towards the Energy Community, the Republic of Serbia should develop a plan for energy and climate. Drafting of the Energy and Climate Plan for the period 2021-2030 with a vision until 2050 is in progress.

The Low Carbon Development Strategy (public consultation finalised) envisages an increase in investment in order to promote the transition to a climate-neutral economy and a climate-resilient society undertaking obligations from the “UN Framework Convention on Climate Change”, which is in line with 13.a.

**SDG 13** is directly correlated with several other sustainable development goals and synergy effects are expected in their achievement. Those are **SDG 6**: Ensure available water and sanitation for all, **SDG 7**: Affordable and renewable energy, **SDG 11**: Sustainable cities and communities, **SDA 12**: Responsible consumption and production and **SDG 15**: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and land degradation, pertaining to the cluster Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity



## GOAL 15: Life on land

### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

The area covered by forests and its use are important **conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland ecosystems (15.1)**. The area covered by forests was around 2,740,000 ha or 31.1% of Serbia's territory in 2020 (UN indicator 15.1.1) In the period of 1953 until 2006 the increase was more than million hectares, i.e. 75% as compared to 1953. Between 2011-2013 the intensity of damages caused by insects and disasters increased, thus some 7,400 cubic meters of wood volume was destroyed in fires. Due to damages attributed to fires, 5,147 cubic meters of wood volume was damaged in 2020 (3,397 cubic meters in 2019) . A particular problem is the illegal logging. The total harvested gross volume of wood was 3,180,227 cubic meters in 2020 (3,371,190 cubic meters in 2019) . During 2020, 1,481 ha of forest land were afforested in Serbia (3,077 ha of forest land in 2019) . The ratio of annual volume increment to annual cut is about 3:1 . The share of freshwater covered by protected areas was 23.2%, while the share of terrestrial areas covered by protected areas was at the level of 26.7% in 2020 (UN indicator 15.1.2).

Some of the most complex limitations in the field of sustainable management of forests, which hinder implementation of the policies, include: lagging behind in technical and technological development; inappropriate practical management of individual forests, and poor observance of the relevant research; institutional weaknesses and slow adaptation to global changes.

In Serbia, 7.7%, respectively 469 areas are protected. Out of that number, 5 are national parks, 17 nature parks, 16 landscapes, 69 reserves, 314 nature monuments and 36 areas of cultural and historic importance and 6 protected habitats .

**Sustainable management of all types of forests (15.2)** needs to be promoted. There was an annual net growth of forest area (UN indicator 15.2.1a) in the Republic of Serbia of 0.02% in 2020 . The aboveground fund of forest biomass (UN indicator 15.2.1b) was 156.99 tons per hectare in 2020 (156.87 tons per hectare in 2019) . The share of forest area within legally designated protected areas (UN indicator 15.2.1c) was 18.42% in 2020 (18.42% in 2019) . The percentage of forest area according to the long-term forest management plan (UN indicator 15.2.1d) was 42.16% in 2020 (42.16% in 2019) The forest area within the independently verified certification scheme for forest management (UN indicator 15.2.1e) amounted to 948.1 thousand hectares in 2020 (963.23 thousand hectares in 2019) .

<sup>396</sup> [https://balkangreenenergynews.com/rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Strategija-niskougljeni%C4%8Dnog-razvoja-sa-akcionim-planom\\_zajavnu-raspravu.pdf](https://balkangreenenergynews.com/rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Strategija-niskougljeni%C4%8Dnog-razvoja-sa-akcionim-planom_zajavnu-raspravu.pdf)

<sup>397</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN150101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>398</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211137.pdf>

<sup>399</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211129.pdf>

<sup>400</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211126.pdf>

<sup>401</sup> <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215674.pdf>

<sup>402</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN150102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>403</sup> <https://www.zzps.rs/wp/pdf/centralneregistar/2020%203%20Pregled%20zasticenih%20podrucja%20Srbije.pdf>

**With regard to the conservation of mountain ecosystems (15.4)**, the degree of legislative protection of these areas plays a significant role. Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity (UN indicator 15.4.1) was 35% in 2020 . Mountain Green Cover Index (UN indicator 15.4.2) was 99.15% in 2018 .

In regards the **biodiversity and natural habitats (15.5)**, according to the Rulebook on the proclamation and protection of strictly protected and protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi , 1,784 wild species of algae, plants, animals and fungi are under strict protection and 860 species are protected. Almost all mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles are under some kind of protection regime, as are a large number of insects and plants. Over 50% of strictly protected species are on the lists of international conventions and EU Directives, most of them on the lists of the Bern and Bonn Conventions and the Birds Directive. Red List Index (UN indicator 15.5.1) was at 0.95 in 2021 .

Target **15.6** refers to **fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed**. The Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries that are signatories to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) (UN indicator 15.6.1a) and the Nagoya Protocol (UN indicator 15.6.1b). The Republic of Serbia does not belong to the group of countries that submitted a report on legislative, administrative and political frameworks through the online reporting system on compliance with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (UN indicator 15.6.1c). A report on the legislative, administrative and policy frameworks was submitted to the Central Institution for the Exchange of Specialized Information on Access to and Sharing the Benefits of Genetic Resources (UN indicator 15.6.1d). The total number of reported standard material transfer agreements (SMTAs) transferring plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the country (UN indicator 15.6.1e) was 106 in 2021 .

It is necessary to **introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems (15.8)**. The Republic of Serbia did not belong to the group of countries that allocated financial resources from the budget for the needs of invasive species risk management (UN indicator 15.8.1a) in 2020 . National strategic documents in the field of biodiversity were in line with the global strategic goals of biodiversity - Aichi Targets (Target 9) (UN indicator 15.8.1b) in 2020 .

**Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning (15.9)** The Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries that set national targets in accordance with the Aichi Targets (Target 2) and there was progress in their achievement (UN indicator 15.9.1) in 2020 .

It is necessary to **mobilize and increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems**, as well as to **finance sustainable forest management (15.a and 15.b)**. Official development assistance and public expenditures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (UN indicators 15.a.1 and 15.b.1) amounted to 19.3 million US dollars in 2018 (43.4 million US dollars in 2017) .

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<sup>405</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15020103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>406</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15020101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>407</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15020105?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>408</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15020104?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>409</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15020102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>410</sup> BirdLife International, International Union for Conservation of Nature and United Nations Environment Programme, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/coverage-by-protected-areas-of-important-sites-for-mountain-biodiversity?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>411</sup> Mountain Green Cover Index – проценat površine planina koji je prekriven zelenom vegetacijom (šume, žbunje, pašnjaci, usevi...)

<sup>412</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/mountain-green-cover-index?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>413</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/ministarstva/pravilnik/2010/5/3/reg>

<sup>414</sup> Red List Index – stepen očuvanja biљnih i животињских vrsta и у којој мери им прети истребљење. Виша вредност (0—1) означава да је мањи број биљних и животињских vrsta угрожен односно да је пред истребљењем.

<sup>415</sup> Birdlife International and International Union for Conservation of Nature, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/red-list-index?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>416</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15060101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>417</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15060102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

**The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy** sets its basis on the four pillars of equal importance: 1. Nature protection (extension of the coverage of protected areas to the level of 30% in the EU), 2. Restoration of nature (establishment of sustainable management in all sectors and ecosystems), 3. Transformation (improvement of the legislative framework and promotion of investments) 4. Strengthening biodiversity at the global level (supporting the strengthening of biodiversity outside the EU). This Strategy seeks to achieve a greater degree of society's resilience to global challenges such as: climate change, forest fires, food shortages and outbreaks of infectious diseases.

**EU Forest Strategy for 2030** provides a framework for strengthening the protection, restoration and resilience of forests at EU level. This Strategy contributes to the development of rural areas, improvement of bioeconomy, reduction of biodiversity loss and the creation of resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems. Increasing forest capacity seeks to mitigate the negative effects caused by climate change.

The EU has set a **vision to ensure that biodiversity is respected, protected and wisely exploited by 2050, while maintaining ecosystem services for the health of the planet and achieving benefits for the human community.**

Ratified conventions in the field of biodiversity and habitat protection : International Plant Protection Convention , International Convention for the Protection of Birds , Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River, Convention on the Conservation of European Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats, Convention on Biological Diversity, Europe Landscape Convention

## 3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda

**National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets** (not time-bound and no accompanying AP) represents a key strategic document addressing sustainable management of natural resources, through which target **15.1 sustainable use of ecosystems, especially forests, wetlands and mountains** is being attained. The problem is **the lack of a report on the degree of implementation of this Strategy, because there was no development of plans or programmes for each natural resource, through which the Strategy was supposed to be implemented. Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 with the accompanying Action Plan** prescribes the need for nature conservation and biodiversity conservation, which is in accordance with target 15.1. Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2010 to 2020 and the National Environmental Protection Programme for the period 2010-2019 contributed to the attainment of target 15.1 in the previous period. The adoption of the new Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2035 is expected soon (public consultations finalised).

**The Spatial Plan** determines the long-term bases of organization, arrangement, use and protection of the space of the Republic of Serbia in order to harmonize economic and social development with natural, ecological and cultural potentials and limitations. The draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 states that one of the goals is preventive protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, along with the rehabilitation and revitalization of endangered and degraded areas.

<sup>417</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15060103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>418</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15060104?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>419</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN15060105?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>420</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/budget-to-manage-invasive-alien-species?region=Europe>

<sup>421</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/national-biodiversity-strategy-align-with-aichi-target-9?region=Europe>

<sup>422</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity and World Environment Situation Room, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/countries-on-track-to-their-national-target-reflecting-aichi-biodiversity-target-2?region=Europe>

<sup>423</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN151101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>424</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/31e4609f-b91e-11eb-8aca-01aa75ed71a1>

<sup>425</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d918e07-e610-11eb-a1a5-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d918e07-e610-11eb-a1a5-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

**In addition to the National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets, the Forestry Development Strategy** (not time-bound and no accompanying AP) **is important for achieving sustainable management of all types of forests (15.2)**. The main goal of this Strategy is to conserve and improve the condition of forests and the development of forestry as an industry branch. A key element to support the implementation of the Strategy is the **National Forestry Programme**, which provides an action framework for the development of the forestry sector. The forestry planning system takes place on two levels: the level of general forest development planning, i.e. planning the purpose and function of forests within larger areas, regardless of the ownership and the level of special forest management planning at the level of management units, where the responsibility lies with the owner or user of forests. National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP) defines a balanced relationship in the use of all forest functions in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, which is in accordance with 15.2.

**National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets** (not time-bound and no accompanying AP) defines the reclamation of existing degraded lands as one of the goals of sustainable land use, which affects the progress in the implementation of **15.3. combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil**. The strategic framework in this area will be further improved through the National Programme for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation (according to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries with Severe Drought and/or Desertification), which is under development.

The Republic of Serbia, with a significant number of endemic plant and animal species, has a great responsibility in preserving biodiversity. UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which recognizes that each signatory has sovereign rights over its resources and biodiversity, but they should support three main objectives: protection of biological diversity, sustainable use of biodiversity components and fair distribution of benefits from the use of genetic resources. In order to achieve continuity in nature protection and biodiversity, the **Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023**, was adopted. Implementation of the measures and activities proposed in the Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023, directly contributes to the attainment of **15.4. conservation of mountain ecosystems, 15.5. reduce the loss of biodiversity, 15.7. end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and 15.8. reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems**. This Programme harmonizes the national targets of the Republic of Serbia with the global Aichi Targets and the EU targets for the protection of biodiversity.

The need to preserve and strengthen ecosystems and biodiversity is contained in the following strategic documents: National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP), Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (not time-bound and no accompanying AP). This type of strategic planning is in line with the target **15.9 integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning**.

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<sup>426</sup> International Plant Protection Convention, International Convention for the Protection of Birds, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, particularly as the habitat of wading birds, Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River, Convention on the Conservation of European Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats, Convention on Biological Diversity

<sup>427</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2012/33/1/reg>

<sup>428</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2010/89/2/reg>

<sup>429</sup> [https://www.zzps.rs/wp/pdf/Nacionalni\\_program\\_zastite\\_%20zs.pdf](https://www.zzps.rs/wp/pdf/Nacionalni_program_zastite_%20zs.pdf)

<sup>430</sup> <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/PPRS%20Nacrt.pdf>

<sup>431</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2006/59/1>

**Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023, with its accompanying Action Plan**, defines financial framework for nature conservation. This programme integrates the principles of biodiversity conservation into financial management processes, which is in line with the target **15.a mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems**. Most of the financial resources are provided from the EU pre-accession funds and the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

**Forestry Development Strategy** (not time-bound and no accompanying AP), within the general goal, defines the need for stable and continuous financing of activities for the improvement and protection of forests. In this way, it contributes to the activation of all forest potentials and the development of the forestry sector. The conduct of such a policy is in accordance with the target **15.b finance and promote sustainable forest management**.

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<sup>432</sup> <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/sites/default/files/inline-files/Program%20zastite%20prirode%20RS%202021..2023,%20godine.pdf>

## 2.2.5. Resources, agriculture and cohesion (sustainable development goal 2)

In this area, the level of agricultural development is shown, as well as the availability and safety of food.



### GOAL 2: Zero hunger

#### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

According to the Red Cross, 33,715 poorest users come to the soup kitchens in 77 municipalities of the Republic of Serbia every day, of which as many as a third are children (about 11,000). It is estimated that about 12,000 users are from Belgrade. For two thirds of users, the meal from the soup kitchen is the only meal they have during the day.

It is necessary to **end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round (2.1)**. In this regard, it is important to monitor the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity among the population, according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale - FIES (UN indicator 2.1.2). The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population (UN indicator 2.1.2a) was 12.4% in 2018 (11.2% for men and 13.4% for women) . The prevalence of serious food insecurity in the adult population (UN indicator 2.1.2b) was 2% in 2018 (1.7% for men and 2.2% for women) . The total number of people in moderate or severe food insecurity (UN indicator 2.1.2c) was about 1,096,600 in 2018 (403,900 men and 511,800 women) . The total number of people in serious food insecurity (UN indicator 2.1.2d) was 176,300 in 2018 (59,500 men and 83,800 women) The prevalence of malnutrition (UN indicator 2.1.1) was 4.3% in 2017 .

Target **2.2** refers **to ending all forms of malnutrition**. Malnutrition is mostly reflected in stunting and wasting of children up to 5 years of age, as well as in meeting the nutritional needs of adolescents, pregnant women, nursing mothers and the elderly population. Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age (UN indicator 2.2.1) amounted to 5.4% in 2019 (7.4% for boys and 3.1% for girls) . This type of prevalence was most present in Roma settlements (16.7% of children under 5 years of age) , among children under 6 months of age (10.8%) , among children whose parent/guardian is uneducated or with lower education (8, 3%) and among children living in the poorest households (9.6%) in 2019. Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age (UN indicator 2.2.2a) amounted to 10.9% in 2019 (12.7% for boys and 8.9% for girls) . Overweight was most prevalent in urban areas (12.6% of children under 5 years of age) , in the age group 36-47 months (16.6%) , among children whose parent/guardian had a secondary education (11.4%) and among children living in the richest households (13.8%) in 2019. Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age - wasting (UN indicator 2.2.2b) amounted to 2.6% in 2019 (3.2% for boys and 1.9% for girls) . Wasting was most prevalent in urban areas (4.3% of children under 5 years of age) , in the age group 48-59 months (3.4%) , among children whose parent/guardian had a secondary education (3.4%) and among children living in the richest households (13.8%) in 2019.

<sup>433</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02010201?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>434</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02010202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>435</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02010203?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>436</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02010204?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>437</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/prevalence-of-undernourishment?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>438</sup> Weight for height  $<-2$  of the standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Child Growth Standards

<sup>439</sup> SORS, SDG <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020100?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>440</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020102?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>441</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020103?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>442</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020104?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>443</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020105?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>444</sup> Weight for height  $>+2$  of the standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards

<sup>445</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020206?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>446</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020207?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>447</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020208?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>448</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020209?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>449</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020210?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>450</sup> Weight for height  $<-2$  of the standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards

**Doubling the agricultural productivity and incomes generated (2.3)** is important for the development of agricultural production. Volume of agriculture GVA per employee (UN indicator 2.3.1) was 6,334 US dollars in 2019 .

**Maintaining genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals including through soundly managed and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources (2.5)** is affecting the degree of sustainability of agriculture. Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities (UN indicator 2.5.1a) amounted to 5,588 in 2020 .

It is necessary to **increase investments in: rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks (2.a)**. The aim is to improve agricultural production capacities through this type of investments. The agriculture orientation index for government expenditure (UN indicator 2.a.1) was 0.31 in 2020 (0.34 in 2019) .

Agriculture is one of the key sectors in the economic structure of our country, and the conditions for its development in Serbia are very favourable. Nevertheless, this sector is faced with numerous problems relating to: unfavourable structure of agricultural farms, technical and technological obsolescence of a part of the sector, primarily small and medium-sized farms, poor farmer organization into cooperatives, as well as insufficient level of processing in the existing food industry. Increasingly frequent and severe crises, in terms of their consequences, caused by natural phenomena (floods, droughts, hail and other) are also worth pointing out, as well as increasingly demanding professional challenges before the farmers facing increased pressures due to rising standards and regulations in the process of alignment with the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU. Through **the IPARD programme for the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2014 to 2020**, additional funds were provided for the improvement of agricultural activities.

## **2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area**

At EU level, the Farm to Fork Strategy addresses all aspects of the sustainability of food production and consumption at EU level. The goal of this Strategy is to develop a food system that will be fair and environmentally friendly, while promoting the habits of consuming healthy foods

## **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

For the development of the agricultural sector, rural development and for the attainment of SDG 2, the most important strategic document of the Republic of Serbia is its **Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy for the period from 2014 to 2024** (no accompanying AP). The Strategy defines the following strategic development goals: 1. production growth and stability of producers' income; 2. increase in competitiveness, accompanied by adjustment to the requirements of the domestic and foreign market, and technical and technological improvement of the agricul-

<sup>451</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020200?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>452</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020202?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>453</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020203?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>454</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020204?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>455</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN02020205?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>456</sup> WB, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.EMPL.KD?locations=RS>

<sup>457</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-accessions-of-plant-genetic-resources-secured-in-conservation-facilities?tab=chart&country=~SRB>

<sup>458</sup> Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government Expenditures is the ratio of the share of agricultural expenditure in total government expenditure and the share of agriculture in GDP. A value greater than <sup>1</sup> means that government expenditures in agriculture are higher than the economic value (GVA) generated in this activity.

<sup>459</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN020601?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>460</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2020\\_05/f2f\\_action-plan\\_2020\\_strategy-info\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2020_05/f2f_action-plan_2020_strategy-info_en.pdf)

<sup>461</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2014/85/1>

tural sector; 3. sustainable resource management and environmental protection; 4. improvement of the quality of life in rural areas and poverty reduction; 5. efficient public policy management and enhancement of the institutional framework for the development of agriculture and rural areas. The implementation of these strategic goals directly contributes towards the attainment of targets 2.3, 2.4 and 2.a.

**Programme for Improving Management of By-Products of Animal Origin for the Period from 2020 to 2024**, with the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2024, focuses on providing a basis for starting the development of the system of collecting animal by-products (SPŽP), as well as facilities that meet the requirements in terms of construction and level of equipment. The implementation of the Programme will increase the competitiveness of Serbian products on the domestic and international markets, but will also enable the achievement of a high level of protection of human and animal health, as well as environmental protection. For the first time, this Programme regulates the management of the SPŽP in line with the Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 to 2024. The implementation of this Programme is in line with target **2.4 ensure sustainable food production systems**.

**Strategy for Improving Facilities for Dealing with Food of Animal Origin for the Period from 2016 to 2020 with the accompanying AP**, contributes to the attainment of targets **2.3 double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers and 2.4. ensure sustainable food production systems**. This Strategy envisages the following strategic goals: 1. improving hygienic conditions in facilities for dealing with food of animal origin; 2. unhindered application of EU rules and standards, with the consensus and cooperation of all stakeholders; 3. improving the protection of human, animal health and environmental protection; 4. increasing competitiveness of products on the domestic and international markets; 5. promoting equal conditions of competitiveness; 6. raising awareness and improving the level of expertise of all stakeholders in the application and implementation of prescribed animal welfare requirements; 7. improving and maintaining a high level of knowledge and competence of the competent authority in the area of food safety; and 8. preservation of traditional production methods in food business entities in small capacity facilities.

**National Programme for Prevention of Overweight in Children and Adults** (no accompanying AP) defines goals to be attained by 2025: promote healthy ways of living and improve health of the entire population and reduce overweight incidence in children, youth, adults and elderly population. The implementation of these goals contributes towards the attainment of target **2.2 end all forms of malnutrition**.

Rural development programme (under preparation) will additionally contribute towards the progress in the implementation of 2.3, 2.4 and 2.2.

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<sup>462</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/drugiakt/2020/14/1/reg>

<sup>463</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2017/1/1/reg>

## 2.2.6 External affairs (sustainable development goal 17)



### GOAL 17: Partnership for the Goals

#### 1. Brief Description of the Current State of Affairs

Since the funds are crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a special **SDG 17 Partnership for the goals** was defined. The scope and ambition of the Agenda impose the involvement of numerous partners such as national parliaments, regional and local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector with the view to mobilising all available resources necessary for the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In this sense, this goal is thematically vaguer than other goals as it covers the entire spectrum of the range of activities. It covers the targets in the area of **finance, technology, trade, capacity building, and finally systemic issues**. It applies to national budgets, debt management, international business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade, systemic issues, science, technology, innovation and capacity building, and finally the subject of crucial importance for the planning of targets and indicators, i.e. data, monitoring and reporting on the achieved results.

**Finance.** With regard to target 17.1. **mobilise resources and capacities for taxes and other revenues collection**, the Republic of Serbia is recording a positive trend. Total government revenues as a share of GDP increased by 4.7 percentage points in the period from 2013 to 2019 (from 37.3% in 2013 to 42% in 2019) . This growth arose as a combination of economic growth (higher economic activity - more tax revenue) and a reduction in the informal sector. Economic growth was accelerated, the fiscal deficit and the foreign trade deficit were reduced, the labour market situation improved, and inflation remained low and stable in the period from 2013 to 2019 . The Covid-19 pandemic had negative short- and medium-term consequences for public revenues. Due to the economic recession and the need for an expansive fiscal policy, public finances were hit by both revenue and expenditure - lower revenues due to economic contraction and higher expenditures due to aid programmes. Total government revenue (UN indicator 17.1.1) accounted for 41% of the GDP in 2020 (a drop of 1 percentage point compared to 2019) . Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes excluding contributions (UN indicator 17.1.2.) recorded a growth by 2.8 percentage points in the period from 2013 to 2019. Influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic, non-contributory tax revenues decreased slightly from 24.3% of GDP in 2019 to 24.1% of GDP in 2020. The depth of the recession and the damage to state finances will depend on the duration of the pandemic.

The medium-term macroeconomic projection projects averaged GDP growth of 7% in 2021, while 4% was planned for 2022, 2023 and 2024. Gross fixed capital formation recorded a decline by 1.9% in 2021, while growth would be 15.2%, 6.4% and 8.1% respectively in the next three years .

Within target 17.3 **mobilize additional financial resources**, net FDI and remittances have significantly contributed to overall economic development. The share of net FDI in GDP (UN indicator 17.3.1) was 6.2% in 2020 (7.7% in 2019) . Remittances (USD) as a share of total GDP (UN indicator 17.3.2) amounted to 7.3% in 2020 (8.2% in 2019) .

A solid positive trend from 2015 can be seen as regards the target 17.4 **long-term debt sustainability**. As a consequence of the economic crisis, the share of public debt in GDP, from 28.3% in 2008, increased to 71.2% in 2015. After the fiscal consolidation, public debt took a declining path, reaching its lowest value in 2019 (52.8% of GDP) . Due to the economic contraction caused by the

<sup>464</sup> <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/61/1/reg>

<sup>465</sup> MoF, <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti2/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci>

<sup>466</sup> MoF, Фискална стратегија 2021—2023.

<sup>467</sup> MoF, <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti2/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci>

<sup>468</sup> MoF, <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti2/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci>

<sup>469</sup> MoF, Фискална стратегија 2022—2024, [https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/6bzXXG\\_6184cf6e39c93.pdf](https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/6bzXXG_6184cf6e39c93.pdf)

Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent expansionary fiscal policy, public debt grew to 57.8% in 2020. Assuming a relatively quick solution to the pandemic, we can expect a return to the downward trajectory of public debt in the medium and long term. Debt repayment as a share in exports of goods and services (UN indicator 17.4.1) was 7% in 2020 (6.4% in 2019).

**Technology. Establishment of regional and international cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation (17.6)** is of great importance for Serbia, which is currently involved in international scientific projects through the so-called European Research Area. In the period from 2014 to 2020, Serbia was a fully-fledged member of the European programme Horizon 2020 and had positioned as a leader in the effective use of this fund; Serbia was also a member of two regional networks for science and innovation: “Western Balkans” and “Danube Region”. The continuation of cooperation within the Horizon 2021-2027 programme is also planned. The number of fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (UN indicator 17.6.1) was growing continuously and amounted to 25.18 in 2020 (23.44 in 2019).

**The development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (17.7)** will play a critical role for Serbia in the years to come. In order for the Republic of Serbia to join Industry 4.0 faster, information and telecommunication technologies are becoming increasingly important. Exports of ICT services recorded a continuous growth of over 20% per year in the period from 2015 to 2019 according to the National Bank of Serbia. Despite the slowdown in economic developments in the conditions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, exports of ICT services grew by 1.2% in 2020. Exports of the ICT sector accounted for 23.2% of total exports of services in 2020. Although employees in the ICT sector represent only 3.3% of total registered employment, the number of employees in this sector was growing significantly from year to year (growth of 5.5% in 2019 and 9.5% in 2020). Every year, an average of 200 new ICT companies are registered in Serbia. Most start-ups employ developers and are oriented towards strong and liquid international IT markets. The profitability index of the ICT sector per employee is 6 times higher than the average profitability index for the whole economy. Due to increased foreign demand for labour, the number of employees in this sector is growing significantly.

The Republic of Serbia has been investing efforts to **enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology (17.8)**. The total of 69.5% of households had access to the broadband Internet in 2020. More than 3.7 million residents used the Internet on a daily basis, more than 1.4 million used e-government services, and 27.9% of companies received online orders. Almost all legal entities had broadband access. The share of individuals who used the Internet in the last three months (UN indicator 17.8.1) was 76% in 2020. (73.7% in 2019) Digitisation is one of the key government priorities for the next four years.

**Capacity building.** For Serbia, as the beneficiary of international development assistance, it is vital to **use international support for capacity building for development and implementation of national plans (17.9)** in the most efficient and effective manner, including sustainable development goals. Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (UN indicator 17.9.1) was around 583 million US dollars in 2019 (around 1 billion US dollars in 2018). The chapter that follows describes the types of support and assistance.

<sup>470</sup> NBS, Payment Balance [https://nbs.rs/sr\\_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/platni\\_bilans/](https://nbs.rs/sr_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/platni_bilans/)

<sup>471</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN170302?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>472</sup> MoF Public Debt Administration, <http://www.javnidug.gov.rs/default.asp?P=26>

<sup>473</sup> MoF, Fiscal Strategy 2022-2024, [https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/6/bzXXG\\_6184cf6e39c93.pdf](https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/6/bzXXG_6184cf6e39c93.pdf)

<sup>474</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN170401?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>475</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN170602?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>476</sup> Industry 4.0 is the name for the trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. It covers cyber-physical systems, Internet of Things, cloud computing and cognitive computing.

<sup>477</sup> Export of the ICT services amounted to 1,422 million euros in 2019, and surplus in the ICT services exchange almost 802 million euros.

<sup>478</sup> NBS, Payment Balance [https://nbs.rs/sr\\_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/platni\\_bilans/](https://nbs.rs/sr_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/platni_bilans/)

<sup>479</sup> SORS, Registered employment in 2020 <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211014.pdf>

<sup>480</sup> Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2027

**Exchange.** Promoting a universal, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization modelled in the target 17.10 **multilateral system under the WTO** is a sensitive topic for the Republic of Serbia.

Serbia's WTO accession process consists of a multilateral and bilateral component. Within the multilateral component, the only open issue is the ban on genetically modified products. Bilateral negotiations were conducted with 18 countries, and concluded with 17.

Another important target under SDG 17 is an **increase in exports (17.11)**. Serbia's total foreign trade exports decreased by 2.8% in 2019, while exports to developing countries decreased by 2.6%. The following products had the largest share in exports: electrical machinery and apparatus (12.4%, with a growth of 2.4%), propulsion machinery and equipment (4.8%, with a decline of 1.6%), road vehicles (4%, with a decline of 19.2%), rubber products (4.4%, with a decline of 9.8%) and iron and steel (4%, with a decline of 30.2%).

**Systemic issues.** Compliance of public policies and institutional framework primarily refers to the target **17.13 macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence**. Inflation in Serbia was relatively stable and amounted to 1.3% in 2020, while the stability of the financial system was reflected in the capital adequacy of the banking sector of 22.4%, and the average monthly liquidity ratio was above 2.13 (2.2 in 2020 year) which was in accordance with domestic and foreign legal requirements. The realized rate of GDP decline was 0.9%, the fiscal deficit was at the level of 8% of GDP, while the public debt was 57.8% in 2020. The projected GDP growth rate was 7% in 2021. These indicators belong to the group of main macroeconomic indicators (UN indicator 17.13.1).

Coherence of cross-sectoral policies at different levels of government is crucial for achieving the target **17.14. policy coherence for sustainable development**. The degree to which mechanisms were in place to improve the coherence of sustainable development policies (UN indicator 17.14.1) was 76.25% in 2020.

In terms of the target 17.16. **enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**, the Republic of Serbia has been involved in numerous regional initiatives (see next chapter), and since July 2017 has been a part of the Regional Economic Area and has actively participated in the development and implementation of the Multiannual Action Plan for Regional Economic Area (MAP REA), which consists of 4 dimensions: trade, investment, mobility and digital integration. At the end of 2019, a trilateral (Serbia, Albania and Northern Macedonia) Declaration on the establishment of free movement of people, goods, services and capital, known as the "Little Schengen" was signed. The Western Balkans Leaders Declaration on Common Regional Market, the catalyst for deeper regional economic integration and a stepping stone to the EU single market, as well as the Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, were signed in November 2020 at a video summit in Sofia. The Action Plan for the establishment of a common regional market is based on four freedoms: movements - goods, services, capital and people, with improvements in the region's attractiveness for investment, integration of the Western Balkans into the pan-European digital space and improving the development of the industrial base and innovation infrastructure.

<sup>481</sup> PATEL, <https://www.ratel.rs/sr/page/kvartalni-podaci-elektronske-komunikacije>

<sup>482</sup> SORS, Use of information and communication technologies in Serbia, 2020, . <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Pdf/G202016015.pdf>

<sup>483</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN170801?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>484</sup> World Bank, <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>

<sup>485</sup> SORS, Foreign trade in goods, 2020, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211198.pdf>

<sup>486</sup> According to SITC - Standard International Trade Classification

<sup>487</sup> SORS, Foreign trade in goods, 2020, <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20211198.pdf>

<sup>488</sup> NBS, [https://nbs.rs/sr\\_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/](https://nbs.rs/sr_RS/drugi-nivo-navigacije/statistika/)

<sup>489</sup> MoF, <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti2/makroekonomski-i-fiskalni-podaci>

The development of the institutional environment impacts on the **effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships** (17.17). The amount allocated for private and public sector partnerships for infrastructure (UN indicator 17.17.1) amounted to 416.3 million dollars in 2020 (42.5 million dollars in 2019) . The Public-Private Partnership Commission gave a positive opinion on 168 public-private partnership project proposals with or without concession elements .

**The availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data (17.18)** is largely regulated thanks to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS). Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring (UN indicator 17.18.1) indicated the high capacity of the national statistical system and amounted to 88.9 in 2020 . National legislation in the field of statistics was in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UN indicator 17.18.2) in 2020 . The Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries that adopted the national statistical plan for which the necessary funds have been provided (from the budget) and which are in the implementation phase (UN indicator 17.18.3) .

**Building on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development (17.19)** largely depends on the work of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity (UN indicator 17.19.1) amounted to 30.7 million US dollars in 2018 . The last census was conducted in 2011. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the census was not conducted in 2021, but was postponed to 2022. Accordingly, the Republic of Serbia belongs to the group of countries that conduct at least one census every 10 years (UN indicator 17.19.2a). A total of 99.9% of the population in the Republic of Serbia in 2019 was registered in the birth register (UN indicator 17.19.2b) .

## 2. EU and Other International Processes in this Area

With the entry into force of the SAA, Serbia has become an EU associated country, with a clear perspective of EU membership. Sectoral cooperation covers all chapters of the acquis, thus allowing Serbia to incorporate EU norms and standards into its legislation in all areas of social activity. Sectoral cooperation is partly implemented using the funds available under the Pre-accession instrument IPA, and partly through bilateral financial assistance of individual countries. In the last 15 years, the EU has been the biggest donor (with realized grants amounting to more than 3 billion euros), as well as the largest creditor (with loans worth 4.3 billion euros ). Within IPA II, an indicative allocation of grants in the amount of 1.5 billion euros has been envisaged for Serbia for the period from 2014 to 2020. Serbia received significant assistance in grants within bilateral cooperation and development assistance of individual countries. The new IPA III pre-accession assistance programme envisages a budget of 14.2 billion euros for the Western Balkans and Turkey . Western Balkan Investment Framework, WBIF, is a financial instrument and a joint initiative of the European Commission, international financial institutions, bilateral donors and six countries of the Western Balkans. This fund enables regional infrastructure development in the fields of environment, energy, transport, public and private sector. The Connectivity Agenda is promoted through political leadership within the Berlin Process. This is, obviously, connected with the considerable technical efforts of the Member States and the support of the Energy Community Secretariat and SEETO Southeast European Transport Observatory. The Berlin, or the Western Balkans 6 Process has strengthened the work on the creation of the regional economic market.

<sup>490</sup> Composite indicator covering mechanisms related to: 1) Institutionalization of political commitment 2) Long-term planning in decision making 3) Interdepartmental and cross-sectoral coordination 4) Participatory processes 5) Political coherence 6) Coherence 6) Coherence between levels of government 7) Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence 8) Policy funding coherence

<sup>492</sup> Summit held in Trieste

<sup>493</sup> World Bank, <https://ppi.worldbank.org/en/visualization#sector=&status=&ppi=&investment=&region=&ida=&income=&ppp=&mdb=&year=&excel=false&map=RS&header=true>

<sup>494</sup> Commission for Public-Private Partnership, Report on Activities of the Commission for Public-Private Partnership of the Government of RS [http://jpp.gov.rs/content/Datoteke/izvestaji/%D0%98%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98\\_%D0%BE\\_%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B4%D1%83\\_%D0%A%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B5\\_%D0%B7%D0%B0\\_%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%B-F%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%BE\\_%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE\\_%D0%32%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B5\\_%D0%A%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B5\\_%D0%A1%D1%80%D0%B1%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B5\\_%D0%B7%D0%B0\\_2020\\_%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%83.pdf](http://jpp.gov.rs/content/Datoteke/izvestaji/%D0%98%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98_%D0%BE_%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B4%D1%83_%D0%A%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B5_%D0%B7%D0%B0_%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%B-F%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%BE_%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE_%D0%32%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B5_%D0%A%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B5_%D0%A1%D1%80%D0%B1%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B5_%D0%B7%D0%B0_2020_%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%83.pdf)

<sup>495</sup> Statistical Capacity Indicator – measures the capacity of national statistics to collect and process data based on three dimensions: methodology, data source and periodicity. The value is on the scale 0-100, the higher the value indicates the better the capacity of national statistics.

<sup>496</sup> <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/statisticalcapacity/SCIdashboard.aspx>

The roles are clearly divided, whereby the Member States create a political impetus, the European Commission provides a framework for financing infrastructure, which is conditioned by adoption and implementation of the so-called “soft measures”, while the Energy Community Secretariat deals with defining these soft measures and monitoring. The aim of the SEETO is to promote co-operation on the construction of the main and secondary transport infrastructure in the region in accordance with the indicative extension of the TEN-T network for the Western Balkans. Priority projects should remove bottlenecks, improve interoperability and build cross-border links that are missing.

SORS has improved its capacities through the project “Strengthening the Serbian statistical system by upgrading methodologies and standards and by the appliance of good practice.” The project was implemented in the period from 2016 to 2017. With the support of the project, the ICT sector of the SORS was modernized; a new SORS website was designed and interoperability was provided, which implies the exchange of data and knowledge with other institutions and organizations. One of the components of the project was to improve existing and develop new indicators of sustainable development.

By signing the Framework Agreement on the general principles for the participation in Community Programmes, Serbia has acquired the right to participate in the horizontal cooperation, i.e. Community programmes. In the period from 2014 to 2020, Serbia participated in the following Community Programmes: Horizon 2020 - programme for research and innovation, Erasmus+ programme for youth education Creative Europe - programme intended to provide financial support to transnational projects in the field of culture and creativity, Europe for Citizens - program intended to finance projects for better understanding of the European Union, its history and diversity, Customs 2020, Fiscalis 2020, Programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME), Employment and Social Innovation – EaSI.

Most community programmes at EU level lasted until 2020. The implementation of the support and cooperation programmes for the period from 2021 to 2027 has continued: Customs, Horizon Europe, Fiscalis, Single Market Program (SMP), EaSI, Creative Europe и Erasmus+. There is a noticeable increase in the budget of these programmes compared to the period up to 2020. It is expected that cooperation will continue through the participation of the Republic of Serbia in these programmes in the coming period.

The Republic of Serbia is a member of the following initiatives and organizations of regional character: South East European Cooperation Process (SEECF), Central European Initiative, Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region, International Sava River Basin Commission, Regional Initiative for Migration, Asylum and Displaced Persons, Central European Free Trade Area (CEFTA), Regional Cooperation Council, Brdo-Brioni Process, European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, Berlin Process and most recently the Regional Office for Youth Cooperation.

Two more agreements to which Serbia is a signatory are of direct importance for regional sustainable development. The first one is **Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River**, which binds Member States to strive for sustainable and equitable water management, including conservation, improvement and rational use of surface and ground waters. The Convention aims to strengthen economic relations in the region and emphasises the need to maintain the navigability of the whole Danube River. The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), headquartered in Vienna, was established for the implementation of this Convention. Within the ICPDR, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 in Vienna, international cooperation regarding the basin of the Tisa River has been conducted.

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<sup>497</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/national-statistical-legislation?region=Europe>

<sup>498</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/countries-with-stats-plan-funded-by-source?country=~SRB>

<sup>499</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/resources-statistical-capacity?country=~SRB>

<sup>500</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/Home/Result/SDGUN16090101?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>501</sup> European Commission, Integration Agenda, <https://www.wbif.eu/sectors/connectivity-agenda>

<sup>502</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_2810](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2810)

**Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin** (Kranjska Gora, 2002) defines the cooperation of States on the establishment of an international regime of navigation, sustainable water management, protection against harmful effects of water, water regime and ecosystems. Special Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework Agreement, ratification of which is in progress, will regulate the cooperation in order to prevent and/or reduce the risk of flooding, by undertaking appropriate measures and activities. The issues regarding the navigation in the international waterway of the Sava River are regulated by the relevant Protocol, which was ratified in the context of the law relating to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin.

### **3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets of the 2030 Agenda**

Regarding the target **17.1 mobilise resources and capacities for tax and other revenue collection, 17.4 long-term debt sustainability** and **17.13 macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and coherence in the Republic of Serbia**, there are several strategies in force that deal with this issue either in a systemic or operational way. The key strategic document is the **Public Financial Management Reform Programme for the period from 2021 to 2025, with its accompanying Action Plan**. This Programme includes the following specific objectives: 1. Capacity for budget planning and public investment management and fiscal risk monitoring improved; 2. Efficiency ensured in collection and management of public revenues; 3. Budget discipline and transparent use of public funds improved; 4. Application of the internal public financial management control in the public sector improved; 5. Public accounting with the application of the international public sector accountings standards (IPSAS) improved and 6 External oversight of public funds enhanced. **Action Plan** envisages the order to quarterly implement measures and activates in the period from 2021 to 2025.

Responding to the problem of inefficient tax service, the **Tax Administration Transformation Programme for the period from 2021 to 2025** (no accompanying AP) was adopted. Its aim is to attain higher level of tax collection, improve services in accordance with customer requirements, develop human resources and reduce costs in fulfilling tax obligations, i.e. reduce grey economy.

In line with the Budget System Law, **Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024** was adopted. It contains: macroeconomic framework, fiscal framework and public debt management strategy for the period from 2022 to 2024.

**Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 “The Power of Knowledge”** with the **accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023** encourages association and cooperation at the international level, which contributes to achieving the target **17.6 regional and international cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation**.

**Enhance the use of enabling technology and ICT (17.8)** has a high level of priority within the following strategic documents: **Strategy for the Development of the Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025 (accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022)** and **Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 “The Power of Knowledge” (accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023)**.

One of the priorities of the Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030 with the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023 is to increase export (17.11). The increase in exports is sought to be achieved by improving the technological structure of exports, which is one of the special goals of this Strategy.

Regulatory Reform and Public Policy Management Programme for the period from 2021 to 2025 (in the adoption procedure) defines effective coordination of public policies and improvement of the planning framework at all levels of government, thus contributing to progress in achieving

<sup>503</sup> <https://europa.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Jacanje-statistickog-sistema-Srbije-brosura.pdf>

<sup>504</sup> Ministry of the Foreign Affairs

following targets: **17.13 macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence and 17.14 policy coherence for sustainable development**

Not all forms of partnership (public, public-private and civil society) are covered by valid public policy documents. This area is regulated by the Law on Public-Private Partnerships and Concessions. In accordance with the law, the Commission for Public-Private Partnership was established to provide professional assistance in the implementation of public-private partnerships and concessions. This is the response of the Republic of Serbia to the target **17.17. effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.**

**Programme of the Official Statistics for the period from 2021 to 2025** is key strategic document contributing to **the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data (17.18)**. The programme defines activities that will contribute to the full harmonization of statistical reporting and harmonization of the methodology of producing the results of official statistics with international statistical standards. Likewise, this Programme contributes towards the attainment of the target **17.19 build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development**. Statistics on sustainable development goals are monitored within the existing database (<https://data.stat.gov.rs>). Further improvement of the content and expansion of data sources in the field of sustainable development goals is planned.

Among the European strategies that also apply to Serbia, and are in line with and promote the achievement of most of the goals of sustainable development, the following ones should be pointed out:

**Southeast Europe Development Strategy until 2030 (SEE 2030)** with development dimensions (pillars): Prosperity of the region (strengthening trade, tourism and transport; improving research and development and promoting renewable energy sources; reducing the risk of natural disasters; digitisation and public-private partnerships), Human capital in the region (better use of human resources; support for the diaspora; improving education quality) and health; development of the judiciary and public services and environmental protection) and Peace and partnership in the region (strengthening institutional capacities for the implementation of the Strategy and creating mechanisms for financing measures and activities necessary for the implementation of the Strategy while respecting transparency and accountability). The adoption of the **Action Plan for the Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP)** is planned in accordance with the Strategy for Southeast Europe (SEE 2030) and the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

Capacities in the field of **Data, Monitoring and Accountability for Achieving Goals** have been improved, in order to enable the availability of quality, updated, reliable and, if necessary, disaggregated data. Initiatives to measure the progress in achieving the goals of sustainable development are already being implemented in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia through a database and platform for a set of indicators for sustainable development.

In line with the 2030 Agenda, covering almost all sustainable development goals, the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** covers 4 related areas: environmental protection, connecting and strengthening the region and building a prosperous society. Topics covered in these areas are: mobility (all transport modalities), sustainable energy, culture and tourism, environmental risks, biodiversity and air and soil quality, water quality, knowledge society, people and skills, competitiveness, institutional capacity and cooperation and security.

**Revised Action Plan for the implementation of the EU Strategy for Danube Region** was officially presented in April 2020. The reasons for the revision of the Action Plan were the following: (1) ten years passed since the adoption of the first Action Plan and it needed to be updated. The revised Action Plan simplifies activities and reduces their number (from 137 activities in the 2010

<sup>505</sup> [https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/yrndWJ\\_60ec21463954b.pdf](https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/yrndWJ_60ec21463954b.pdf)

<sup>506</sup> <https://www.purs.gov.rs/sr/o-nama/program-transformacije.html>

<sup>507</sup> [https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/orj73G\\_60ec2244699c1.pdf](https://www.mfin.gov.rs/upload/media/orj73G_60ec2244699c1.pdf)

<sup>508</sup> <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2011/88/7/reg>

<sup>509</sup> [http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/ostala\\_akta/2021/RS13\\_21\\_lat.pdf](http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/ostala_akta/2021/RS13_21_lat.pdf)

document to 85 in the new action plan, including new topics - artificial intelligence, priority area), (2) The revised Action Plan should be a document which will provide strategic guidelines for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, and establish better compatibility with other programmes and funding instruments (cohesion policy programmes, other EU instruments and funding programmes - IPA, NDICI, ENI, CEF, LIFE, Horizon Europe, etc., as well as national/regional/local funding of the Danube countries).

**EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region** consists of 4 pillars: Blue growth (fisheries and aquaculture), environmental quality (transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity), connecting the region (maritime transport, intermodal connections to the hinterland, energy networks) and sustainable tourism (sustainable and responsible tourism management). Horizontal aspects apply to all four pillars: capacity building, development and research, small and medium enterprises, climate change and disaster risk management.

The above-mentioned relevant strategic documents (Strategy for the Development of Southeast Europe until 2030, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region) contribute to the improvement of the target **17.16 global partnership for sustainable development**.

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<sup>510</sup> <https://www.rcc.int/docs/581/south-east-europe-strategy-2030>

<sup>511</sup> SORS, SDG, <https://data.stat.gov.rs/?languageCode=sr-Cyrl>

<sup>512</sup> <http://www.evropa.gov.rs/Documents/Home/DACU/12/71/72/EU%20Strategy%20for%20Danube%20Region.pdf>

<sup>513</sup> <https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EUSDR-ACTION-PLAN-SWD202059-final-1.pdf>

### 3. 2030 Agenda - Implementation Framework in Serbia

In December 2015, the Government established the Inter-sectoral Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) tasked to carry out nationalisation, implementation and monitoring of SDGs in the Republic of Serbia. This body was chaired by a minister without portfolio in charge of the demographic development. At the meeting held on 1 September 2017, it was agreed that the Republic of Serbia was to start drafting the Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Republic of Serbia presented its first **Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Serbia on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** in July 2019 before the United Nations at the Ministerial Meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Monitoring the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda directs the development agenda of the Republic of Serbia, which should be formulated through the highest hierarchical development documents, in accordance with the Law on Planning System.

Likewise, the process of prioritisation and nationalisation of the sustainable development goals in the Republic of Serbia opens the possibility to integrate the development agenda and the reporting process through the existent institutional framework, i.e. European Semester light. Thereby, the same reporting principles and standards established in EU member states would be applied in Serbia.

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<sup>514</sup> Members of the inter-ministerial group are line ministries and other government authorities and bodies in charge of monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Serbia.

<sup>515</sup> [https://www.mdpp.gov.rs/doc/DNI\\_2019.pdf](https://www.mdpp.gov.rs/doc/DNI_2019.pdf)

<sup>516</sup> Development Plan, Investment Plan and Spatial Plan



## 4. Conclusion

The results of mapping provided an insight into the coverage of the areas of specific SDGs with adequate strategic and policy documents. Since the mapping is based on four mutually closely connected clusters, progress and voids in terms of strategic documents are presented for each cluster:

1. Fundamentals (sustainable development goal 16)
2. Internal market (sustainable development goal 3)
3. Competitiveness and inclusive growth (sustainable development goals 1.4, 5, 8, 9, 10)
4. Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity (sustainable development goals 6, 7, 11, 12,13, 15)
5. Resources, agriculture and cohesion (sustainable development goal 2)
6. External affairs (sustainable development goal 17)

**The core cluster** represents a horizontal area related to **institutions, finance and judiciary**. This area (SDG 16) is generally well strategically defined. **New strategies** have been adopted in the period from 2020 to 2021: **prevention and protection of children from violence, development of the judiciary, prevention and fight against gender-based violence against women and domestic violence, combating money laundering and terrorism financing, fight against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and public administration reforms**. The exception is the **Strategy for the Fight Against Organized Crime**, which does not have a limited period of validity, nor an action plan for its implementation. Therefore, one can expect to start optimizing the planning framework in the field of public security. After the expiry of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, the **lack of strategic documents in the field of anti-corruption is observed**. The programmes adopted in the period from 2020 to 2021 additionally contributed to the attainment of the goals within the Fundamentals: **Public Finance Management Reform, e-Government Development and Tax Administration Transformation**.

Within **the internal market**, the level of health protection of all citizens in the Republic of Serbia was observed (SDG 3). The area of preservation and improvement of health and health care is mostly covered by the Public Health Strategy. **The Action Plan for the implementation of the Integrated Water Management Strategy and two programmes (the Rare Diseases Programme and the Programme for Improving Cancer Screening)** were adopted in the period from 2020 to 2021. In the next period, it is expected that the adoption of the umbrella **Strategy for the Development of Health Care** optimise planning framework in the area of planning. **Programme for Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases** that would integrate existing documents for certain diseases and factors that affect the occurrence of these diseases (mental health, fight against alcohol dependence, overweight, etc.) should be adopted. In addition, the **Programme for Combating Infectious Diseases** should be adopted, for it is crucial to raising the country's readiness to counter a new threat posed by new viruses. Also, the adoption of **the Environment and Health Programme** would contribute to the harmonization of these strategically important areas.

The cluster **competitiveness and inclusive growth** includes the following areas: poverty, gender equality, inequality, education, economic growth, industry, innovation and transport infrastructure.

The area of poverty (SDG 1) is partially covered by the strategic framework. Employment Strategy and Strategy for the Development of Education (adopted in 2021) contain measures contributing towards poverty reduction in the Republic of Serbia. There has been a significant delay in the adoption of the **Social Protection Strategy and the Poverty Reduction Strategy**.

In the field of gender equality (SDG 5), **the Gender Equality Strategy for the period from 2021 to 2030 (adopted in 2021)** is an umbrella strategy. The issue of gender gap and inequality is also covered in several strategic documents (Strategy of Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims, Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Strategy for the Development of Education).

In the field of inequality (SDG 10) there is no umbrella strategy. However, this topic is elaborated through a number of different policy documents (Employment and Social Policy Reform in the process of accession to the European Union (ESRP), Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma, Fiscal Strategy, Public Administration Reform Strategy and the Economic Reform Programme).

The field of education (SDG 4) is adequately covered by **the Strategy for the Development of Education until 2030**.

The theme of sustainable economic growth with increasing employment rates (SDG 8) is contained in several strategies: fiscal, scientific and technological development, smart specialisations, development of education, industrial policy, employment, and tourism development. Economic Reform Programme, which contains key reforms that contribute to achieving economic growth, is of particular importance. In the coming period, the Strategy for Cultural Development and the Strategy for Supporting the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises should be adopted along with the setting of the institutional and legal framework for microfinance. The adoption of the Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia would certainly contribute to the planning of long-term economic growth.

**Industrial Policy Strategy from 2021 to 2030** (adopted in 2021) covers in detail the situation in the field of industry (SDG 9) and includes measures to improve the degree of industrialisation.

**Scientific and Technological Development Strategy from 2021 to 2025** and **the Smart Specialization Strategy from 2020 to 2027** (adopted in 2021) greatly contribute to improving the level of innovation and research (SDG 9).

Continuity in the development and improvement of transport infrastructure (SDG 9) is defined through **the Strategy on Development of Waterborne Transport and Programme for Public Rail Infrastructure**. The adoption of **the National Transport Strategy** is of great importance for further strengthening the transport infrastructure.

**Green Deal and sustainable connectivity** covers the areas of environment, energy and climate change. Within this cluster, the topics of sustainability and inclusiveness of cities and settlements and sustainability of production and consumption were also observed. In the field of environment, the umbrella document (National Environmental Protection Programme) has expired. Improving sanitary conditions and increasing the level of access to drinking water (SDG 6) is defined through **the Water Management Strategy**. Conservation of forests, land and biodiversity (SDG 15) is contained in the National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets, Forestry Development Strategy, National Forestry Programme (NFP) and the Nature Protection Programme. In order to preserve natural resources, it is necessary to adopt a new Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia and the National Environmental Protection Programme.

In the field of energy (SDG 7), **Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with projections until 2030** is an umbrella document which, among other things, is a framework for providing affordable energy to all citizens, encouraging the participation of renewable energy sources in total production and consumption and strengthening institutional capacity to achieve energy efficiency.

The topic of sustainability and inclusion of cities and settlements (SDG 11) is mostly covered by **the Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030**. In order to enable the systemic development of cities and settlements, it is necessary to adopt the National Housing Strategy, Road Traffic Safety Strategy, new Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, Strategy for Cultural Development Strategy, Waste Management Strategy and the Air Protection Strategy.

Sustainability of production and consumption (SDG 12) is partly contained in the Energy Development Strategy, Industrial Development Strategy and the Public Procurement Development Programme. The key strategic document is the National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets. However the biggest weakness is the lack of an accompanying Action Plan, so it is impossible to monitor its implementation.

Observed at the level of all SDGs, the area of climate change (SDG 13) is the least covered area by valid public policy documents. An umbrella strategic document is missing for this area, as well as public policy documents for air protection and protection of land from degradation. The adoption of the Low Carbon Development Strategy, Programme for Adaptation to Changed Climate Conditions and the Energy and Climate Plan is expected, as well as the beginning of drafting of the Waste Management Strategy, Air Protection Strategy (Programme) and National Air Pollution Control Programme.

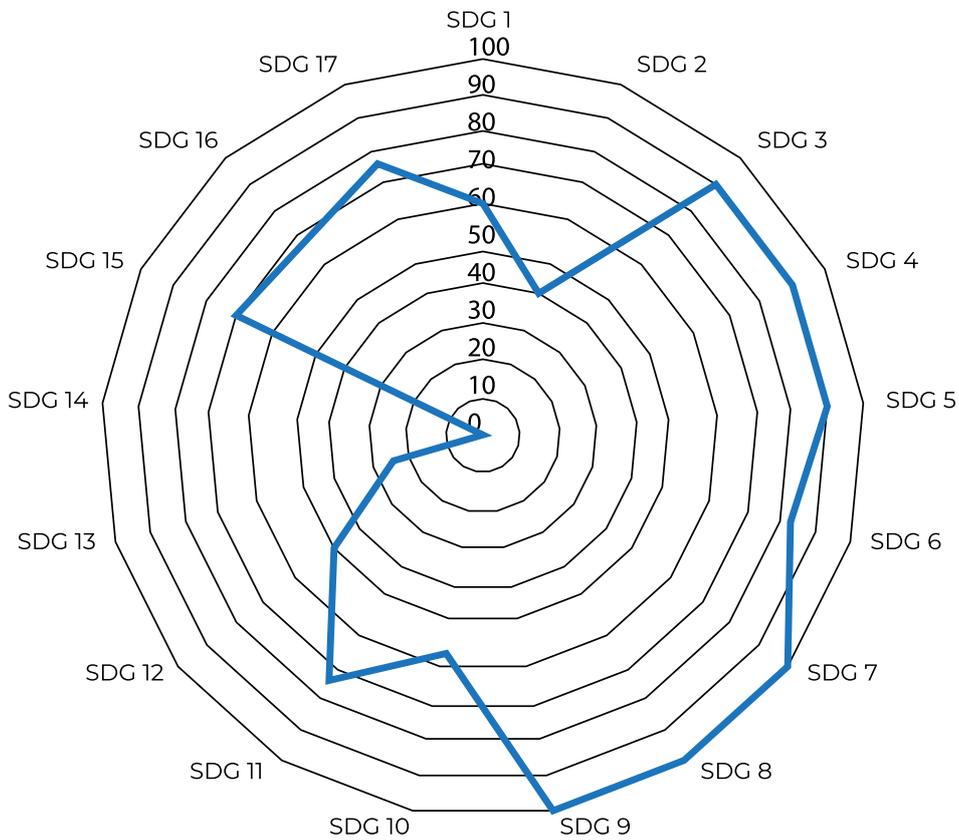
The situation in the field of agriculture and the topics of hunger and food security (SDG 2) were analysed in the cluster **resources, agriculture and cohesion. Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development** is the most important strategic document. Programme for Improving Management of By-Products of Animal Origin and Strategy for Improving Facilities for Dealing with Food of Animal Origin contribute to increasing the level of food safety and preserving human and animal health. An appropriate umbrella strategy should be adopted so as to tackle hunger in a systematic way. The adoption of a Poverty Reduction Strategy would significantly contribute to defining a long-term policy to reduce hunger.

In the cluster of **external relations**, the degree of partnership among state institutions, private sector and civil society was observed (SDG 17). This area includes a number of sectoral policies aimed at improving the level of cooperation at the domestic and international level. The strategic documents adopted in the period from 2020 to 2021 are of key importance: Fiscal Strategy, Public Financial Management Reform Programme, Tax Administration Transformation Programme, Scientific and Technological Development Strategy, Strategy for the Development of the Artificial Intelligence, Industrial Policy Strategy, Economic Reform Programme and Programme of the Official Statistics. Programme for Improving Public Policy Management and Regulatory Reform for the period from 2021 to 2025 (adoption procedure in progress) will be of great importance for improving coordination and coherence in public policy-making.

**The lack of a Sustainable Development Strategy (previously expired in 2017) and accompanying reports on its implementation makes it difficult to monitor the degree of progress in achieving all SDGs.**

Detailed mapping results by individual SDG are given in the following graph showing the percentage of coverage of each SDG with the strategic framework:

### Coverage of the SDGs by the RS Strategic Framework



When calculating the percentage coverage of the SDG by the strategic framework, all pertaining targets for each SDG relevant for the Republic of Serbia were taken into account, bearing in mind that the SDG 14 is not covered at all. This graph shows that the goals 3, 7, 8 and 9 are best covered, while the SDGs in the field of environmental protection and climate change are the least covered. The total coverage of SDGs and pertaining targets by the strategic framework of the Republic of Serbia was 68.9% in 2021 (the degree of coverage was 65.2% in 2020). The greatest progress in terms of coverage has been made under the following SDGs: 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality) and 15 (life on earth). The following public policy documents greatly contributed towards the progress made at the level of SDGs 4, 5, 15: Strategy for Development of Education of the Republic of Serbia until 2030, Strategy for Gender Equality for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the Programme for Nature Protection of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023. Also, there is a decrease in the degree of coverage by the strategic framework of the Republic of Serbia at the level of the following SDGs: 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). The adoption of the following policy documents would contribute to improving the situation under SDGs 1, 3 and 11: Poverty Reduction Strategy, Social Protection Strategy, Road Traffic Safety Strategy, Strategy for Cultural Development, Spatial Plan, Waste Management Programme and Air Protection Programme. The lowest level of coverage by the strategic framework is observed at the level of SDG 13 (Climate Action) due to the lack of an umbrella strategy for climate change and related programmes.

It is also worth mentioning that not all strategies are equally important for the achievement of SDGs and that there are a number of strategies that are relevant for several of the SDGs and their respective targets. The following graph shows the Strategies within the existing strategic framework that are relevant to more than one target and are shown in proportion to the number of targets they cover:

### The relative importance of RS strategies for SDGs



The Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 is of the greatest relative importance for the attainment of the SDG. This Strategy covers the total of 13 sustainable development targets. This is followed by the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (includes 8 targets), Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 (includes 7 targets) and the Energy Development Strategy (includes 6 targets).



## Annex: Table with the comprehensive mapping of the National Strategic Framework

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<b>No poverty (Goal 1)</b>			
<p>Poverty (1.1), (1.2), Social protection (1.3)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>                      1.1.1. Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)                      1.2.1. Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age                      1.2.2. Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions                      1.3.1. Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> <li>· Southeast Europe Development Strategy until 2030</li> <li>· Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (without accompanying AP since 2018)</li> <li>· Employment and Social Reform Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union (ESRP)</li> <li>· Social Protection Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (under preparation)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 2 and 19</p>	<p>Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>
<p>Equal rights (1.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>                      1.4.1. Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· National Strategy for Social Housing for the period from 2012 to 2022 with the accompanying AP until 2022</li> <li>· Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (without accompanying AP since 2018)</li> <li>· Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 19 and 23</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations (1.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population            1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)            1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030            1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Disaster Risk Management Programme (not time-bound, without accompanying AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 19	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Mobilization of resources (1.a)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024</li> </ul>	Chapter 17	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<b>Zero Hunger (Goal 2)</b>			
<p>End hunger and ensure access to food (2.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment            2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No valid Public Policy Documents - PPDs (Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Republic of Serbia has expired)</li> </ul>	Chapters 12	Cluster 5 <i>Resources, agriculture and cohesion</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>End all forms of malnutrition (2.2)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age &lt;-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age            2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height &gt;+2 or &lt;-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· National Overweight Prevention Programme for Children and Adults (no accompanying AP)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 12</p>	<p>Cluster 5  <i>Resources, agriculture and cohesion</i></p>
<p>Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (2.3), Ensure sustainable food production systems (2.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 to 2023 (no accompanying AP)</li> <li>· IPARD Programme for the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 to 2020 (modified with the Conclusion of 16 April 2021);</li> <li>· Strategy for Improving Facilities for Dealing with Food of Animal Origin for the Period from 2016 to 2020, with the accompanying AP for the period from 2016 to 2021</li> <li>· Programme for Improving Management of By-Products of Animal Origin for the Period from 2020 to 2024, with the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2024</li> <li>· Rural Development Programme (under preparation)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 11 and 12</p>	<p>Cluster 5  <i>Resources, agriculture and cohesion</i></p>
<p>Genetic diversity in food production (2.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            2.5.1 Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 12</p>	<p>Cluster 5  <i>Resources, agriculture and cohesion</i></p>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
Increase investment (2.a)  <b>Indicators:</b> 2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 to 2023 (no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• IPARD Programme for the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 to 2020 (modified with the Conclusion of 16 April 2021);</li> <li>• Rural Development Programme (under preparation)</li> </ul>	Chapters 11 and 12	Cluster 5 <i>Resources, agriculture and cohesion</i>
<b>Good Health (Goal 3)</b>			
Maternal mortality ratio (3.1), deaths of newborns and children (3.2), universal health coverage (3.8)  <b>Indicators:</b> 3.1.1 Maternal mortality rate 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate 3.8.1. Coverage of essential health services (defined as average coverage of basic services based on monitored interventions that include reproductive health, maternity, neonatal and child health, communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and capacity and access to services, among the general and most vulnerable population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2026 with its accompanying AP for the period 2018 to 2026 and Programme</li> </ul>	Chapter 28	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>
Communicable diseases (3.3)  <b>Indicators:</b> 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2026 with its accompanying AP for the period 2018 to 2026</li> <li>• Strategy for HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control for the Period from 2018 to 2020, with the accompanying AP for the period from 2018 to 2021</li> <li>• Programme for Environment and Health (under preparation)</li> </ul>	Chapter 28	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Non-communicable diseases and mental health</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Public Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2026 with its accompanying AP for the period 2018 to 2026</li> <li>· National Programme for the Mental Health Protection of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2019 to 2026 with its accompanying AP for the period 2019 to 2022</li> <li>· Programme for the Rare Diseases in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020 to 2022 with its accompanying AP for the period 2020 to 2022</li> <li>· Programme for Improving Cancer Screening of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020 to 2022 with its accompanying AP for the period 2020 to 2022 year</li> <li>· National Programme for the Control of Bacterial Resistance to Antibiotics for the period 2019 to 2021 with its accompanying AP for the period 2019 to 2021</li> </ul>	Chapter 28	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>
Prevention and treatment of substance abuse including harmful use of alcohol (3.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for the period 2014-2021 and accompanying AP for the period 2018-2021</li> <li>· National Programme for the Prevention of Harmful Use of Alcohol and Alcohol-Induced Disorders (not time-bound, without accompanying AP)</li> </ul>	Chapters 24 and 28	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>
<p>Prevention and reduction of road traffic accidents</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No valid PPDs (Road Safety Strategy expired in 2020)</li> </ul>	Chapters 1, 14 and 21	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>  Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Sexual and reproductive health-care protection (3.7)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Public Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2026 with its accompanying AP for the period 2018 to 2026</li> <li>· Birth Incentive Strategy (not time-bound, without accompanying AP)</li> <li>· National Programme for Support of Breastfeeding, Family and Developmental Care of Newborns (not limited in time, no AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 28	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution (3.9)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Management Strategy of the territory of the Republic of Serbia until 2034 and its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2023</li> <li>• Waste Management Programme (under preparation);</li> <li>• Air Protection Programme (under preparation);</li> <li>• National Programme for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation for the period 2022 - 2025 with the accompanying AP (under development)</li> </ul>	Chapter 28	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>
<p>Implementation of the "Framework Convention on Tobacco Control" (3.a)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2026 with its accompanying AP for the period 2018 to 2026</li> </ul>	Chapter 28	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>

### Quality education (Goal 4)

<p>Quality primary and secondary education (4.1), pre-primary (4.2), tertiary education (4.3))</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 4.1.1. Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education) 4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> <li>• Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024 and accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2022</li> <li>• Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (without accompanying AP since 2018)</li> </ul>	Chapters 23 and 26	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Relevant skills and vocational skills (4.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> </ul>	Chapter 26	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Disparities in education (4.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> <li>· Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (without accompanying AP since 2018)</li> </ul>	Chapters 23 and 26	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Literacy and numeracy (4.6)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (without accompanying AP since 2018)</li> </ul>	Chapter 26	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Knowledge and skills of students in sustainable development (4.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> </ul>	Chapter 26	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Inclusive and effective learning environments for all (4.a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> <li>· Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024 and accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2022</li> </ul>	Chapters 23 and 26	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<b>Gender equality (Goal 5)</b>			
<p>End all forms of discrimination against all women (5.1), (5.2) and Equal leadership at all levels of decision-making (5.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex            5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age            5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence            5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments            5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2021 to 2030 (no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• Strategy of Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims for the period from 2017 to 2022</li> <li>• Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence for the period from 2021 to 2025 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>• Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> </ul>	Chapters 19, 23 and 24	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (5.3)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	Chapters 23 and 24	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
<p>Unpaid work, care and domestic work (5.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period FROM 2021 TO 2023</li> </ul>	Chapters 19	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and exercise of reproductive rights (5.6)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</p>	<p>· National Program for Preservation and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia (not time-bound, no accompanying AP)</p>	<p>Chapters 23, 24, 28</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p> <p>Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i></p>
<p>Equal rights to economic resources and ownership (5.a) and Promote the empowerment of women (5.b)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex</p>	<p>· Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2021 to 2030 (no accompanying AP)</p>	<p>Chapters 19, 23</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>
<b>Clean water and sanitation (Goal 6)</b>			
<p>Safe and affordable drinking water for all (6.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</p>	<p>· Water Management Strategy of the territory of the Republic of Serbia until 2034 and its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2023</p>	<p>Chapter 27</p>	<p>Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i></p>
<p>Adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene (6.2)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water</p>	<p>· No valid PPDs</p>	<p>Chapter 27</p>	<p>Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i></p>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Improve water quality (6.3), increase water-use efficiency (6.4), implement integrated water resources management at all levels (6.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  6.3.1 Proportion wastewater flows safely treated  6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality  6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time  6.4.2 Level of water exploitation (water stress): freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources  6.5.2 Proportion of trans-boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Strategy of the territory of the Republic of Serbia until 2034 and its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2023</li> <li>National Environmental Approximation Strategy (not time-bound, no accompanying AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in water and sanitation management (6.b)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Environmental Approximation Strategy (not time-bound, no accompanying AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<b>Affordable and Renewable Energy (Goal 7)</b>			
<p>Universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services (7.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity  7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with the Projections until 2030 and the Energy Development Strategy Implementation Programme from 2017 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapters 15, 21 and 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (7.2)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with the Projections until 2030 and the Energy Development Strategy Implementation Programme from 2017 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapters 15, 21 and 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Energy efficiency (7.3)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with the Projections until 2030 and the Energy Development Strategy Implementation Programme from 2017 to 2023</li> <li>Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030 with the vision until 2050 (obligation in line with the CEC, under development)</li> <li>Long-Term Strategy for Mobilizing Investments in the Renovation of the National Building Stock in the Republic of Serbia (obligation in line with the EU Directive, under development)</li> </ul>	Chapters 15, 21 and 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>International cooperation and improvement of energy infrastructure (7.a and 7.b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Strategy of the Energy Community</li> </ul>	Chapters 15, 21 and 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<b>Decent work and economic growth (Goal 8)</b>			
<p>Sustainable economic growth (8.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024</li> <li>Economic Reform Programme for the period from 2021 to 2020 (ERP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 20	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Technological Development and Innovations (8.2)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 “The Power of Knowledge” and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2027 and the accompanying AC for the period from 2021 to 2022</li> </ul>	Chapters 20, 25	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>New job creation and encourage entrepreneurship (8.3)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>• Free Zone Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2022 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2018 to 2022.</li> <li>• Programme for Improving the Position of the Republic of Serbia on the Doing Business List of the World Bank for the period from 2020 to 2023 with the AP for the period from 2020 to 2023</li> <li>• National Programme for the Suppression of the Grey Economy in the Republic of Serbia for the Period from 2021 to 2025 (under development)</li> </ul>	Chapters 1, 20	<p>Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>
<p>Resource efficiency in consumption and production (8.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>• Waste Management Programme (under development)</li> <li>• Cleaner Production Programme (under development)</li> </ul>	Chapter 4	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>
<p>Productive employment and decent work and equal pay for work of equal value (8.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 2, 19	<p>Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>
<p>Promote employment, education and training of the youth (8.6)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Youth Strategy for the period from 2015 to 2025 (AP has expired)</li> <li>• Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> <li>• Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapters 19, 26	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Eradicate human trafficking, forced and child labour (8.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy of Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims for the period from 2017 to 2022</li> </ul>	Chapters 19, 24	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>
<p>Labour rights, protection and safety at workplace (8.8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Occupational Safety and Health Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2022 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2018 to 2022</li> <li>· Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 19	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Development of sustainable tourism (8.9)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2016 to 2025</li> </ul>	Chapter 30	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all (8.10)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NBS Monetary Policy</li> </ul>	Chapter 17	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<b>Industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9)</b>			
<p>Quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure (9.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· National Programme for Public Rail Infrastructure in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2017 to 2021 (no accompanying AP)</li> <li>· Strategy on Development of Waterborne Transport of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2015 to 2025 (the Government has adopted the Decision to Amend this Strategy on 7 May 2020) (AP has expired)</li> <li>· National Transport Strategy for the period from 2022 to 2030 (AP has expired)</li> </ul>	Chapters 14, 21	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Inclusive and sustainable industrialization (9.2), access to financial services and their integration into value chains and markets (9.3)</p> <p>9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment 9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 20	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Sustainable industries, with increased resource-use efficiency and clean technologies (9.4)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 9.4.1 CO2 emission per unit of value added</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP)</li> <li>Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with the Projections until 2030 and the Energy Development Strategy Implementation Programme from 2017 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 15	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Science, technology and innovations serving to sustainable industrial development (9.5)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2027 and the accompanying AC for the period from 2021 to 2022 year</li> <li>Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 "The Power of Knowledge" and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 25	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Access to ICT (9.c)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy for the Development of the Information Society and Information Security for the period from 2021 to 2026 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>Digital Skills Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020 to 2023 (no accompanying AP)</li> <li>Strategy for Development of the New Generation Networks until 2023 (no AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 10	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<b>Reduced inequalities (Goal 10)</b>			
Inequality rate in distribution of income (10.1) <b>Indicator:</b> 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Employment and Social Reform Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union (ESRP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 19	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all (10.2) <b>Indicator:</b> 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Employment and Social Reform Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union (ESRP)</li> <li>· Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (without accompanying AP since 2018)</li> </ul>	Chapter 19	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
Combating discrimination (10.3) <b>Indicator:</b> 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No valid PPD (Strategy for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination expired in 2018, the new one is being prepared)</li> </ul>	Chapter 19, 23	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
Fiscal policies and policies in the area of health and social protection (10.4) <b>Indicator:</b> 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising of wages and transfers for social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Economic Reform Programme for the period 2021-2023</li> <li>· Public Administration Reform Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025</li> <li>· Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024</li> </ul>	Chapter 17, 19	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
Regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions (10.5) <b>Indicator:</b> 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· NBS Monetary Policy</li> </ul>	Chapter 17	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
Representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions (10.6) <b>Indicator:</b> 10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	Chapters 30, 31	Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people (10.7)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 10.7.2 Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people 10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration Management Strategy (AP has expired)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 23, 24 , 31</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p> <p>Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i></p>
<b>Sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11)</b>			
<p>Access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services (11.1)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Social Housing for the period from 2012 to 2022 with the accompanying AP until 2022</li> <li>• Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (no AP from 2018)</li> <li>• National Housing Strategy (under development)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 23</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p>
<p>Sustainable transport systems and road safety (11.2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Programme for Public Rail Infrastructure in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2017 to 2021 (no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• Strategy on Development of Waterborne Transport of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2015 to 2025 (the Government has adopted the Decision to Amend this Strategy on 7 May 2020) (AP has expired)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 14</p>	<p>Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i></p>
<p>Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation (11.3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2022</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 20</p>	<p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>
<p>Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage (11.4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for Cultural Development of the Republic of Serbia from 2020 to 2029 (New Parliament has returned the Strategy to the Government under the regular procedure)</li> <li>• Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 (public consultations finalised)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 26</p>	<p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Detrimental effects caused by disasters (11.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population  11.5.2 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· National Disaster Risk Management Programme (not time-bound, without accompanying AP from 2020)</li> <li>· National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in the State of Emergency (not time-bound and no accompanying AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 31	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Air quality and municipal and other waste management (11.6)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities  11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· National Plan for the Reduction of the Main Pollutant Emissions from Old Large Combustion Plant -NERP (in line with the CEC obligations)</li> <li>· Waste Management Programme (under preparation);</li> <li>· Air Protection Programme (under preparation);</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces (11.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2022</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Strengthen national and regional development planning (11.a)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics;(b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2022</li> </ul>	Chapter 17	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigating disaster risks (11.b)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030            11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and its accompanying AP for the period 2021 to 2022</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<b>Responsible consumption and production (Goal 12)</b>			
<p>Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>• Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025 with the Projections until 2030 and the Energy Development Strategy Implementation Programme from 2017 to 2023</li> <li>• Cleaner Production Programme (under development);</li> <li>• Circular Economy Programme (under development).</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Reduce food waste (12.3)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            12.3.1 Food waste index</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management Programme (under preparation)</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Environmentally sound management of chemicals (12.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement  12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management Programme (under preparation);</li> <li>Cleaner Production Programme (under development).</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Reduce waste generation (12.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management Programme (under preparation);</li> <li>Cleaner Production Programme (under development).</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Sustainable practices and integration of sustainability information into the reporting cycle of companies (12.6)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	Chapter 10	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
<p>Public procurement in accordance with principles of sustainability (12.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Procurement Development Programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2019 until 2023 with its accompanying AP for 2021</li> </ul>	Chapter 5	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
<p>Education for sustainable development (12.8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023.</li> </ul>	Chapter 26	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<b>Climate action (Goal 13)</b>			
<p>Adaptive capacity to climate-related changes (13.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population  13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030  13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in the State of Emergency (not time-bound, no accompanying AP).</li> <li>• National Disaster Risk Management Programme (not time-bound, without accompanying AP)</li> <li>• Initial National Communication on Climate Change - UNFCCC</li> <li>• First Biannual Updated Report (FBUR) in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC</li> <li>• Second national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC</li> <li>• Low Carbon Development Strategy (public debate completed);</li> <li>• Programmes of Adaptation to Changed Climatic Conditions by Sectors (under preparation, IPA 2016)</li> <li>• Air Protection Programme (under preparation);</li> <li>• National Programme for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation for the period 2022 - 2025 with the accompanying AP (under development)</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Integrate climate change measures into national policies and strategies (13.2)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with the Projections until 2030 and the Energy Development Strategy Implementation Programme from 2017 to 2023</li> <li>• Cleaner Production Programme (under development)</li> <li>• Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030 with the vision until 2050 (obligation in line with the CEC, under development)</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Implement the commitment undertaken under the "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" (13.a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Carbon Development Strategy (public debate completed)</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<b>Life on land (Goal 15)</b>			
<p>Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland ecosystems (15.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP).</li> <li>• Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>• Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 (public consultations finalised)</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Sustainable management of all types of forests (15.2)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (not time-bound and no AP)</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Combat land degradation (15.3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• National Programme for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation for the period from 2022 to 2025 with the accompanying AP (under development)</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Conservation of mountain ecosystems (15.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Safeguard the biodiversity and natural habitats (15.5)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 15.5.1 Red List Index</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapters 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources (15.6)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>End poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna (15.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems (15.8)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning (15.9)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets (not time-bound and no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (not time-bound and no AP)</li> <li>• Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<p>Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems (15.a)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 15.a.1 (15.b.1) (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme for Nature Conservation of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
Finance and encourage sustainable forest management (15.b)  <b>Indicator:</b> 15.a.1 (15.b.1) (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (not time-bound and no AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 27	Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i>
<b>Peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16)</b>			
Reduce all forms of violence (16.1)  <b>Indicator:</b> 16.1.2 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Community Policing Strategy (not time-bound, AP has expired)</li> <li>· Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence for the period from 2021 to 2025 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> <li>· Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence for the period from 2020 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2021</li> </ul>	Chapter 23, 24	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
End all forms of exploitation and violence against children (16.2)  <b>Indicator:</b> 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy of Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims for the period from 2017 to 2022 (AP has expired)</li> </ul>	Chapter 24	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
Rule of law and equal access to justice (16.3)  <b>Indicators:</b> 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Judicial Development Strategy for the period from 2020 to 2025 and updated Action Plan for the Chapter 23</li> </ul>	Chapter 23	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
Combat against money laundry and all forms of torganized crime (16.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy Against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing for the period from 2020 to 2025 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022</li> <li>• Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons for the period 2019 to 2024 (AP has expired)</li> <li>• Strategy for Combating the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction for the period from 2021 to 2025 (no AP)</li> <li>• National Strategy for the Fight Against Organised Crime (not time-bound, AP has expired)</li> </ul>	Chapter 24	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
Fight against corruption (16.5)  <b>Indicators:</b> 16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Administration Reform Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025</li> <li>• Public Procurement Development Programme in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2019 until 2023 with its accompanying AP for 2021</li> <li>• National Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Serbia has expired in 2018</li> </ul>	Chapter 23	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
Effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (16.6)  <b>Indicators:</b> 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Administration Reform Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025</li> <li>• Public Finance Management Reform Programme for the period 2021 to 2025 with its accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025</li> <li>• e-Government Development Programme of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2022 for the period from 2020 to 2022 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022</li> </ul>	Chapters 10, 23 , 24	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>
Responsive and participatory decision-making (16.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for Gender Equality for the period from 2021 to 2030 (no accompanying AP)</li> <li>• Programme for Improving Public Policy Management and Regulatory Reform for the period from 2021 to 2025 (public hearing completed).</li> </ul>	Chapters 10, 23	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Participation in the institutions of global governance (16.8)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 30, 31</p>	<p>Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i></p>
<p>Provide legal identity for all (16.9)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2016 to 2025 (without accompanying AP since 2018)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 23</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p>
<p>Public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms (16.10)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for Implementing the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters – The Aarhus Convention (not time-bound, AP has expired)</li> <li>· Strategy for the Development of the Public Information System of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025 with the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022</li> <li>· Strategy for the Protection of Personal Data (working group has been formed)</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 23</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Strengthen relevant national institutions for prevention of violence and combating terrorism and crime (16.a)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Strategy for the Fight Against Organised Crime (not time-bound, AP has expired)</li> <li>• Strategy for the Fight Against Cybercrime for the period 2019 to 2023 (AP has expired)</li> <li>• National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight Against the Terrorism for the period from 2016 to 2021 with the accompanying AP</li> <li>• Strategy against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing for the period from 2020 to 2025 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to . -2022</li> <li>• Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence for the period from 2020 to 2023 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2021</li> <li>• Strategy for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for the period from from 2021 to 2025 and the accompanying AP for the period from from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 23, 24	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
<p>Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies (16.b)</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No valid PPD ,(Strategy for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination expired in 2018, the new one is being prepared)</li> </ul>	Chapter 23	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
<b>Partnership for the goals (Goal 17)</b>			
<p>Mobilise resources and capacities for tax and other revenue collection (17.1)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024</li> <li>• Public Finance Management Reform Programme for the period 2021 to 2025 with its accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025</li> <li>• Tax Administration Transformation Programme for the period from 2021 to 2025 (no AP)</li> </ul>	Chapter 16	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>  Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Mobilize additional financial resources (17.3)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  17.3.1 Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income  17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 17, 32</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p> <p>Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i></p>
<p>Long-term debt sustainability (17.4)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024</li> <li>· Public Finance Management Reform Programme for the period 2021 to 2025 with its accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 17, 32</p>	<p>Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i></p> <p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p> <p>Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i></p>
<p>Regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation (17.6)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 “The Power of Knowledge” and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 26</p>	<p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p> <p>Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i></p>
<p>Development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (17.7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 27</p>	<p>Cluster 4 <i>Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity</i></p>
<p>Enhance the use of enabling technology and ICT (17.8)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strategy for the Development of the Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2020 to 2022.</li> <li>· Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 “The Power of Knowledge” and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 25</p>	<p>Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i></p>
<p>International support for capacity-building to develop and implement national plans (17.9)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>  17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Southeast Europe Development Strategy until 2030</li> <li>· European Strategy for the Danube Region</li> <li>· EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 31</p>	<p>Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i></p>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
Accompanying challenges (17.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2030 and the accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2023</li> </ul>	Chapter 20	Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i> Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i>
Macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and coherence (17.13)  <b>Indicator:</b> 17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Reform Programme for the period 2021-2023</li> <li>Fiscal Strategy for 2022 with projections for 2023 and 2024</li> <li>Public Finance Management Reform Programme for the period 2021 to 2025 with its accompanying AP for the period from 2021 to 2025</li> <li>Programme for Improving Public Policy Management and Regulatory Reform for the period from 2021 to 2025 (under the adoption procedure)</li> </ul>	Chapters 17, 32	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>  Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i>
Coherence for sustainable development (17.14)  <b>Indicator:</b> 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme for Improving Public Policy Management and Regulatory Reform for the period from 2021 to 2025 (public hearing completed).</li> </ul>	Chapters 17, 32	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>  Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i>
Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (17.16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southeast Europe Development Strategy until 2030</li> <li>European Strategy for the Danube Region</li> <li>EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region</li> </ul>	Chapters 30, 31	Cluster 6 <i>External relations</i>
Effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships (17.17)  <b>Indicator:</b> 17.17.1 Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No valid PPDs</li> </ul>	Chapter 8, 23	Cluster 2 <i>Internal market</i>  Cluster 3 <i>Competitiveness and inclusive growth</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 AGENDA	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS	TITLE CLUSTER
<p>Availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data (17.18)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring            17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics            17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding</p>	<p>· Programme of the Official Statistics for the period from 2021 to 2025</p>	Chapter 18	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>
<p>Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development (17.19)</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b>            17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries            17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration</p>	<p>· Programme of the Official Statistics for the period from 2021 to 2025</p>	Chapter 18	Cluster 1 <i>Fundamentals</i>

